**Journalism**

**Course Syllabus**

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**Course Overview:**

This course is an elective in which students will be responsible for planning and creating content for a print school newspaper. They will edit their content, lay it out, print, and distribute a print school newspaper once a month. In addition to the school newspaper, students will actively participate in creating additional media that lends publicity to PCHS and its mission; its faculty, staff, and students; and its extracurricular programs.

**Materials Needed**:

Pens (any color except red), Pencils, Loose Leaf Notebook Paper, 1” to 2” Binder (you may share a binder with another class), 3 Hole Pocket Folder, Colored Pencils, Highlighter, 2 Dividers.

**Grading Scale and Breakdown of Grading:**

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 and below.

Engagement (homework, discussion, classwork, etc.) 50%

Tests/Projects/Major Essays 35%

Quizzes/Minor Essays 15%

All students will be permitted to make test corrections. In order to earn points back, a student must review the material and conference with me and demonstrate understanding of the material in question. No more than 10 points can be earned back; therefore, it is imperative that students study and understand the materials by the test date. This process must be initiated within three days of receiving the test grade.

If your student needs help in my class, I am available most days before or after school. Feel free to speak with me to set up a time.

**Course Content**:

In this course, students are largely responsible for doing the practical work of publishing a school newspaper and most of this course will focus on researching, writing, editing, and publishing. In addition to the mental (and physical!) labor the course requires the following units will also be taught and tested:

Unit 1: Journalism Fundamentals and Ethics

Unit 2: Specialized Writing

Unit 3: Multimedia

Unit 4: Social Media

**Power School and Website:**

Grades and the assignments page on my school website will be updated no later than Friday evenings so that you may check the progress and upcoming assignments of your student. Please keep in mind, essays take longer to grade than other assignments, but I will grade them in a timely manner. To get to my school website as soon as it is available, go to www.piedmontclassical.com, click on staff and choose my name, Andrea Verschaeve. If you need to contact me, please use my school email at averschaeve@piedmontclassical.com. Follow the instructions below to sign up to receive all my class reminders.

**General Classroom Expectations:**

This elective course is one in which a sense of community—even family—is important in individual success so everyone must do his/her part to make sure that we all learn in a safe, friendly classroom. If you become disruptive, hostile, or disrespectful, I will verbally correct your behavior. On the second occurrence, I will contact your parents. On the third occurrence, I will refer you to the office.

Bullying will NOT be tolerated! Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Anyone participating in bullying will be referred to the office. For more information on bullying, visit the link below.

http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/definition/#types

Phones and other electronic devices are off limits in this course during discussions and notetaking. If having your device out will make you appear less professional, put it away. Students who are unable to maintain professionalism with their personal electronic devices will not be allowed to use them. If you lose privileges, I will take your device and return it at the end of class. After I’ve removed your device once, I will send it to the office and it may be picked up at the end of the day by you or your parent, depending on the offence.

**Attendance:** Daily attendance is essential to academic success. Students are expected to attend school daily. When a student needs to miss school, the absence may be excused if the absence has 1) been approved in advance or 2) falls into one of the excused absence categories. A parent note is required within three days of the student’s return to school to be excused. Class work and homework that is missed due to an unexcused absence may be made up, but it will be recorded at no more than 50%. Students are responsible for getting all missed work. They are expected to check weebly, ask a peer, or ask me. Students have 3 school days to turn in missed work.

**Tardies:** Students are expected to be in class on time. Excessive tardiness disrupts classroom instruction and exhibits disrespect to me and the other students in class. Three or more tardies to my class in one quarter will be considered excessive. Parents will be notified if tardiness becomes excessive. Class time missed due to excessive tardies may need to be made up.

**Late Work:**

I do accept late work up to three days past the original due date for 50% of the grade. I will not hold a newspaper deadline for late work, so it will not be possible for final story submissions and edits that are late to appear in the publication.

*This syllabus is a tentative outline of this course and may be updated as deemed necessary by the instructor. Make sure you fill out the information sheet for my class and sign the bottom indicating you and your student have read and understand the contents of this syllabus. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.*