

Journalism, Mr. Henke

Welcome to Journalism. I am excited for this class to get underway because it was my job prior to becoming a teacher and I still enjoy many aspects of this very important profession. In this class we will focus on the skills necessary to becoming a professional journalist, including accuracy and balance, along with the nuts and bolts of putting together a school newspaper that the rest of the student body enjoys – and finds informative.

Schedule

The class will be divided into two distinct sections: An early journalism “boot camp” to get us ready for our first issue of the school newspaper and a regular seven-day cycle schedule that will culminate in our final published product. The “boot camp” will last for the first 3-4 weeks of the trimester. Construction of the newspaper will occur each cycle for the rest of the trimester.

Boot camp

We will focus on the following tasks:

- Thinking like a journalist, making ethical choices and deciding what is news
- Finding sources and developing interview skills
- Writing a basic news story, including use of quotations and journalistic style
- Newspaper design, including headlines, copy, photographs and cutlines
- Photography and other visual elements
- Organization of our newspaper, including election of editors

Publishing cycle

Day 7

- Review previous issue (when applicable)
- Introduce new skill to work on (features, editorials, columns, reviews, sports)
- Assign stories and assignments for each section
- Set up interviews and begin gathering information

Day 6

- Interviews and information gathering
- Begin writing stories

Day 5

- Continue writing stories
- Begin editing

Day 4

- Finish writing stories
- Begin editing stories (Read by at least two people)
- Begin page design and layout

Day 3

- Finish editing stories
- Page design and layout in lab



Day 2

- Finish page design and layout
- Final pages turned in by the end of class

Day 1

- Fill out time sheets and compile portfolio information (What did you accomplish? How much time did it take)
- Distribute paper

Assessment

Newspaper: Did you do your part to help us produce a quality newspaper that we can be proud of? Did you jump in and help with editing and layout along with writing? Are you working on improving your final product?

Current events quizzes: One of the best ways to learn about newspapers is to read the professionals. You should read the Aitkin Age and the Star Tribune to stay caught up on current events.

Skills: Throughout the trimester, we will be working on skills that will help us become better journalists and produce a quality product. Assignments related to these skills will be collected and assessed.

Rules/Expectations

1. Come to class prepared with your notebook, folder, and a pen or pencil
2. Respect your teacher and your classmates
3. Participate and have fun
4. Late work does us no good and will NOT be accepted

Grading

My grading scale follows the standard grading format.

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 59 and less

Grading is determined first and foremost by the scale. If you do your work and put forth an honest effort, you will be successful in this class.

Contact

E-mail: jhenke@aitkin.k12.mn.us

Phone: (218) 927-2115, ext. 3304

