Course Title: Journalism 2

Course #: 1252-1253

Course Description: This class is a writing course of news, feature, sports, and opinion pieces with an emphasis on work being published in Cathedral Catholic High School's online publication, El Cid. The course is based on the teaching of solid journalistic methods of information gathering and legal/ethical conduct, employing extensive reading of current literature, analysis of published writing samples, and continual critical thinking and self-reflection regarding real-life activities in the areas of writing news, interviewing/researching, editing, design/layout, photojournalism, polling, advertising, fundraising, and publishing. Students make use of constructive criticism from peers and adviser in order to write pieces for a targeted audience and community. A continued study of AP Style and current events is included.

UC/CSU Approval: Not UC/CSU approved

Grade Level: 10-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: Journalism 2 students spend approximately 2-5 hours per week working on their stories and managing their sections and staff.

Prerequisite: Completion of Journalism 1 with a grade of C or higher

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Prospective Journalism 2 students should possess knowledge of news values, lead writing, and potential story structures. Since many Journalism 2 students serve as editors, they should exhibit strong writing, editing, and information gathering/interviewing skills. Collaborative, leadership, and team skills are desired as many Journalism 2 students oversee a section of the school's online publication.

Course Grade Categories:
- Classwork/Projects/Story Preparation (25%)
- Final Exam (15%)
- Stories/Photojournalism (45%)
- Tests/Quizzes (15%)

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
This course tasks students to write five full-length stories with three sources and one picture/infographic/image plus cutline per semester. Moreover, students effectively oversee the
entire maintenance of the school’s online publication, including leading story pitch sessions, editing peer stories, interfacing with outside vendors, coordinating team coverage, applying for awards and recognition, and motivating staff. To hone their photojournalism skills, students must submit one photograph with cutline per week for inclusion in the paper’s Week in Pictures. In addition, students take weekly current event and AP style quizzes.

**Topics:**

**Editing** - This topic teaches students to identify and to correct mistakes in writing related to AP style, wordiness, sentence structure, redundancies, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**Leadership/Team Building** - This topic introduces students to leadership philosophies and styles, helping them develop and clarify their own leadership style, as well as providing practical strategies to build staff unity.

**Design** - This topic explores newspaper design changes in the last 100 years while teaching students basic design principles and elements and the functions each serves.

**Press Law/Ethics** - This topic covers landmark court decisions that impact the field of journalism and the work of journalists.

**News Writing/Rhetoric** - This topic introduces students to the basic news values and structures journalists use to compose and organize news, opinion, and review stories. Students further develop their process-oriented writing philosophies by challenging them to “resee” their writing in a way that opens the door for them to make wholesale, rather than simple lexical changes. A continued heavy dose of “generative rhetoric” is included to improve students’ sentence sense and structure.