Course Title: Journalism 3

Course #: 1254-1255

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.

UC/CSU Approval: Not UC/CSU approved

Grade Level: 11-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: Journalism 3 students spend approximately 2-5 hours per week working on their stories and managing their sections and staff.

Prerequisite: Completion of Journalism 2 with a grade of C or higher

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Prospective Journalism 3 students should possess solid editing and writing skills, leadership abilities, and passion for media/communications studies.

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 oversee the entire maintenance of the school’s online publication, including leading story pitch sessions, editing peer stories, interfacing with outside vendors, coordinating 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 events and AP style quizzes.

**Topics:**

**Investigative Reporting** - This topic highlights the role of the press as a societal watchdog responsible for exposing matters people or organizations wish to keep secret. Students learn about investigative reporting tips, advice, and resources.

**Multimedia Broadcast** - This topic compares the print versus broadcast journalism, giving students practice at creating multimedia news stories/packages.

**Web/Changing Face of Journalism** - This topic examines print stories versus digital stories, including reporting on multiple platforms, using social media to reach broader audiences, blogging, incorporating links, and planning online packages.

**Entrepreneurship/Marketing/Audience Engagement** - This topic develops students knowledge of the business side of journalism by focusing on entrepreneurship, audience analysis, audience engagement, publication management, and money matters.

**News Writing/Rhetoric** - This topic introduces students to the basic news values and structures journalists use to compose and organize news, column, satirical, and scene building stories. Students further develop their process-oriented writing philosophies by encouraging them to identify the meta cognitive processes they endure while composing. A continued heavy dose of “generative rhetoric” is included to improve students’ sentence sense and structure.