

JOURNALISM SYLLABUS

PACK LIFE
BRIDGET UPDYKE

“Building tomorrow by educating today.”



Welcome to Journalism

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design the *Pack Life*, which is distributed around the school.

Classroom Rules

Journalism is a unique class because students utilize both written and visual skills to communicate. The class also requires strong interpersonal communication skills: Much as English students use library resources as a foundation to write a research paper, journalism students must use information gathered from live interviews and photo shoots as the foundation for their research/stories/photography.

Students who prove themselves consistently trustworthy may earn the **privilege** to leave the classroom to work on stories for publication. **Any student who abuses this privilege will be grounded to the classroom for the remainder of the course and will receive a referral to the appropriate assistant principal.** In addition, parents/guardians will be notified of the infraction via a phone call, e-mail, and/or in writing.

Students who receive permission to leave the room for journalism-related activities must sign out from the room when they are leaving to research, interview, shoot, etc., using a legal pad on the teacher's desk. Students leaving the classroom must ask permission from the adviser, obtain a pass, sign out of the classroom, and be at the place specified on the sign-out sheet. In addition, students must return to the classroom after 20 minutes after checking out, if they have not received prior permission for extended time.

Grading policy

Students will be graded on daily participation and assignments, attendance, and deadlines.

Final Deadlines (tests):	40%
Daily Participation:	10%
Classwork/Homework:	25%
Quizzes:	25%

Supplies

- Composition Book (for notes)
- Flashdrive
- Pens/pencils
- 3-ring Binder
- Paper

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is essential to succeed in this class. If students know in advance that they will incur an excused absence—due to medical appointments, field trips, sports or other activities—they should turn in work before the absence. Students are expected to check with their editor for any deadlines that were assigned during their absence.

In addition, students are expected to be present when projects and stories are due. Students are required to participate during class; many days will include participation points.

Use of technology (digital cameras, computers, software, etc.):

Students are expected to use equipment responsibly. No consumption of food or drink will be tolerated around computers. (Camera/laptop/technology usage agreement is attached.)

Please read and sign the attached Journalism Contract that clarifies practices regarding activities outside of the classroom and use of equipment.

Instructor

Bridget Updyke

Courses Taught

English I/Journalism

Contact Information

BridgetRU@LeeSchools.net

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

– Theodore Roosevelt