

# 2009-2010 JOURNALISM

Mr. Naymik

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Class site: [www.naymik.com/learn](http://www.naymik.com/learn)

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## Course Description:

This introductory course will entail studying journalistic writing, terminology and publication to complete journalism –related assignments. Students will apply these skills, using software to produce a student newspaper / newsletter. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills by analyzing the news media and current events... and by applying that knowledge to hands-on activities. Expository writing skills will be encouraged – how to, cause & effect, compare & contrast, problem & solution, to inform.

## Course Goals:

- Understand and appreciate the fundamentals of journalism and how these fundamentals apply to a school publication.
- Understand what makes news and develop the ability to make ethically sound decisions when writing for the newspaper.
- Create effective news stories, feature stories, and other types of stories while demonstrating the ability to follow AP style.
- Understand the role of technology in the creation of a newsmagazine and how technology influences the media.
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills to evaluate the news, mass media, sources, and one's own writing.
- Work cooperatively with other members of the staff and school administration to create a quality, professional newsmagazine.
- Be constantly aware of what is going on in the world, both locally and globally.
- Utilize one's creativity in the layout and design process.
- Meet deadlines on time in order to ensure productivity.

## Course Requirements:

Grades will be based on the following factors: homework/class work, quizzes, tests, papers, and participation. A brief description of each category follows.

1. **Homework/Class Work:** The bulk of the work will fall into this category.
2. **Quizzes:** These will cover vocabulary, readings, and class instruction or quizzes might involve short writing assignments.
3. **Tests:** I will give a test at the end of each unit worth between 50 and 100 points, depending on the length and importance of the unit.
4. **Articles:** These are the main writing products.

5. **Current events:** Students will be expected to complete weekly current event assignments.
6. **Participation:** All students are expected to participate in daily assignments, discussions and activities. Part of being a journalist is learning to work with people, both on the staff and in the community.

**Technology will be an important component of this course.** Students will be expected to conduct Internet research, type and correctly format papers, construct presentations, and complete class assignments. We will use the school labs during class time and after school. However, the student may need to use a home computer or a public library from time to time.

Also, this class will use a class web site, <http://www.naymik.com/learn>, for notes, handouts, extra assignments and other materials. I can also be contacted through this site. Students may need to access this outside of class, either after school or at home. Students will need to register for this site, which requires an email address. (All information is kept private; Student's full name is not displayed on the site.)

**Grading:**

All assignments and tests will be assigned a point value relative to that item's importance. The student's grade will be approximately based on the following percentages:

Participation.....	25%
Homework/Class Work....	25%
Quizzes.....	15%
Current Events.....	10%
Tests/Articles.....	25%
	<b>100%</b>

If given, semester exams will be worth 5-10% of the overall grade.

**Horizon's Grading System:**

98-100 = A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	0-59 = F
93-97 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D	
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-	

**Student Supplies:**

The following materials are required.

1. 1 notebook (dedicated to writing class) for notes and class work.
2. 1 plastic envelope or folder for handouts and essays.
3. Pencil or pen (black or blue ink).
4. Access to the Internet and print newspapers.
5. Recommended: Students should have a flash drive for saving and transporting class assignments.

**Daily Responsibilities and Expectations:**

Students will be expected to take an active part in their education. Furthermore, students will be responsible for asking questions, seeking out help, and managing their time. The following are basic daily responsibilities:

1. Follow all school rules: dress code, no food or drink, **no cell phones**, etc.
2. Be respectful and courteous—it will be returned to you.
3. Pay attention and follow directions.
4. Take notes.
5. Actively participate in all classroom activities.
6. Be prepared for class every day.

**Tardy Policy:**

Students are to be in class before the bell rings.

**Consequences:**

Students are expected to follow all rules. An appropriate consequence will be assigned to students who fail to follow classroom and/ or school rules.

Consequences will include the following:

1. Verbal warnings
2. Detentions
3. Phone calls to parents
4. Conferences with parents and student
5. Removal from class for the period
6. Referrals depending upon the frequency and severity of the behavior that is interfering with the learning process.

**Late Assignments & Makeup Work:**

The world of journalism is based on deadlines. Failure to complete assignments on time will result in only partial credit given for the assignment and loss of participation credit.

**Extra Help:**

I am more than willing to provide assistance and tutoring to any student. Please just ask and we will schedule a time after school. Tutoring hours will be posted in the room, during which time students may ask questions, review for tests and quizzes, make up work or tests, or use the room as a quiet place to study.