

Mr. Pearl's School Publications Class Course Guide

RATIONALE: The six major disciplines that make up communications arts are: 1) reading, 2) writing, 3) listening, 4) speaking, 5) viewing, and 6) visually presenting. For students to effectively communicate in the modern world, they need to have experience and ability in each of these separate (yet related) areas. Language is power; teachers of communication arts attempt to empower their students with literacy and communication to prepare them to be productive, competitive citizens.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students taking the Journalism (School Publications) course have a unique opportunity to apply the sixth tenet of communication arts, *VISUALLY PRESENTING*, in the form of producing both the quarterly school newspaper and the *Golden Flame* yearbook. The course will also give students meaningful experiences using word processing, desktop publishing and photo processing software, skills they can apply not only in journalism, but in any technology applications field of work/study.

GRADING SCALE: The grading scale will be the standard scale used throughout Union Star R-II High School:

100-96	A	82-80	B-	69-66	D+
95-90	A-	79-76	C+	65-63	D
89-86	B+	75-73	C	62-60	D-
85-83	B	72-70	C-	59-Below	F

A WORD ON GRADING: Journalism is a deadline business. The ability of a competent journalist to produce quality writing, take clear photographs and compose attractive page layouts within the confines of a set deadline is critical. LATE or MISSING work will be severely penalized in the School Publications class—much more so than in a typical classroom setting—and grades will suffer notably as a result of late, incomplete or neglected work.

EXPECTATIONS: I expect all students to give their best possible effort to complete the assigned course work and learn the subject matter presented to them. For a student to accomplish this, he or she must be attentive, hard working, and self-disciplined. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with in class or by referral to the principal. Punishments will vary based upon the severity or frequency of misbehavior.

Please have a parent/guardian read this form, have him/her sign it, and then return it to me.

I verify that my child and I have read this form, and we agree that said child will follow the rules and expectations stated in the form.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date