

FDHS Yearbook Journalism

What is this class about?

Journalism class is your chance to put your writing and imagination to the test. Simply put, our job is to make the yearbook. We must create a theme, book cover, and every other aspect of a yearbook.

What will my job be?

As a staff member, you will be responsible for many tasks. You will be assigned spreads (facing pages of the book, for example varsity football or foreign language), which demand hard work and punctuality but is also very rewarding in the end. Included in a spread are the jobs of selecting and cropping pictures, writing captions, obtaining quotes, conducting research, and entering the material into the computer. The most difficult job is getting quality pictures and quotes from students or teachers. To succeed, you must be very determined and focused on your goals and deadlines. Many other simple tasks come with the job. You will be required to sell ads to local businesses, which help pay for the making of the book. Your exam grade depends on the number of ads you sell; for example, five ads sold earn a 100 exam grade. You will be trained for all the jobs you shall be carrying out during your time in this class.

What is required?

Because this is a journalism course, you must be well versed in English, especially grammar and sentence structure. Your skill in writing is also important. Although it is not required, experience with creative writing, photography, and computer is beneficial. This class must be taken during its scheduled period for first-year students and is an all-year, everyday class. Journalism is a one-credit course. The application process consists of a written application, a possible interview, and confidential teacher recommendations, as well as a review of your school records.

What jobs on staff are available?

All students of this class have a job title. While most are general staff members, there are also photographers, an editor-in-chief, a media editor, a business editor and an ads designer. All jobs are very important to the production of the yearbook.

How do you pick who gets to be on staff?

Picking new staff members is the single most important thing we do each spring. In order to be fair, we do it mathematically. We gather the following information on each candidate; academic record, discipline record, attendance record, confidential teacher recommendations, the application itself, and we often conduct interviews. Each area is given a value and a certain weight. We then average all the scores and list the candidates in order of their average score. We then choose the top "X" number of new staff members we need for the upcoming year. Those who don't make the cut are kept on a waiting list in case those who earned their way on to staff have a conflict or change their minds. If that is the case, we approach the remaining candidates in order.

Journalism Application

(return to room 109 ASAP)

Name: _____

Age: _____

Grade (this year): _____

1. Why are you interested in joining the Patriot yearbook staff?
2. Do you have any experience in journalism? If so, where and what were your tasks? (ex. Yearbook, newspaper, broadcasting, creative writing)
3. Discuss the qualities you have that you think will be an asset to you as a member of the yearbook staff.
4. Discuss the qualities you have that will detract from your service to the yearbook staff. (We all have them, so don't be afraid to be honest)
5. Have you developed any specialized skills that would be an asset for yearbook? For example, formal training in photography, Photoshop, InDesign, etc.