



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Journalism IV Grades 11 and 12
(LA1225, A/B- 1 credit)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers continued practical experience in print and online media for the trained journalist through a workshop format in newspaper reporting and editing. Students apply and refine the principles learned in Journalism I, II, and III by producing, editing, publishing, and managing articles for the public for the online formats of the student newspaper. The course stresses advanced journalistic and expository writing skills in addition to intense application of written conventions, word usage, grammar, and style rules as carried out in all phases of the production of the school newspaper. Students participate in all phases of production, including but not limited to; write and edit in journalistic format; design and layout advertising; edit and lay out copy in WordPress, Instagram, and school bathroom bulletin; and take, film, and edit photographs and videos. The students must be committed to deadlines and be willing to take initiative and responsibility; all journalism IV students must hold a leadership position on the staff, sharing expertise and leading by example for newer journalists. Instruction regarding ethics and law surrounding reporting, writing, and digital journalism are a daily part of the newsroom. Advice is always available to support the journalists, but each student bears the personal responsibility for understanding and being faithful to the laws and technical issues that affect journalists. As a culminating experience, students will produce a curated portfolio of works demonstrating their strengths, experiences, and growth as a journalist and throughout their experiences journalistic experiences.

PREREQUISITE

Journalism I, 2, and 3

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE: N/A

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

News Reporting and Writing, Tenth Edition, Melvin Mencher

READING SELECTIONS

Newspapers and magazines from other schools in the city, state, and nation. Online journalism formats.

THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES THAT COMPRISE THE JOURNALISM II COURSE ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS FROM THE CURRICULUM:

SKILLS AND CONCEPTS

- Participating in planning the content and tone of a publication, leading brainstorming sessions
- Demonstrating advanced proficiency in a variety of journalistic writing genres
- Demonstrating skill for packaging articles on WordPress online media site, adding sidebars, photos, videos, creating polls, a variety of headlines.
- Evaluating journalistic products across U.S. and award winning VHSL newspapers; Participating in the VHSL evaluation process, and participating in editor meetings for staff needs and demands (press passes, t-shirts, website badges and other online/Instagram site demands)
- Demonstrating proficiency in interviewing
- Writing articles based on research (interviews, library research, polls, surveys, consumer reports)
- Copyreading, proofreading, editing copy accurately before, during, and after publication round
- Curation of a body of work representing a students journalistic experience while in high school

MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1.1 Indicate familiarity with the history and the legal and ethical aspects of journalism.

E 1.1.1 Understand the concepts applicable to laws and ethics governing the press.

1.2 Learn the role of mass communication within our society and the world.

E 1.2.1 Understand why mass communication is important to modern living.

1.3 Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of journalistic writing styles.

E 1.3.1 Develop skills in news gathering.

E 1.3.2 Cultivate awareness of audience and purpose.

E1.3.3 Write straight news articles, features, editorials, and commentaries consistent with journalistic standards.

E 1.3.4 Provide focus with appropriate captions and headlines.

1.4 Familiarize themselves with available resources pertaining to computer software, photography, and other technology which enhance production and increase the impact of the publication.

E 1.4.1 Use available computer software and other technology in production of the publication

Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., Acting Superintendent
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Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

Virginia Beach City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation/gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, disability, marital status, age, genetic information, or military status in its programs and activities, employment, or enrollment and provides equal access to the Boy or Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups. School Board policies and regulations (including but not limited to, Policies 2-33, 4-4, 5-4, 5-7, 5-19, 5-20, 5-44, 6-7, 6-33, 7-48, 7-49, 7-57 and Regulations 2-33.1, 4-4.1, 4-4.2, 4-4.3, 5-7.1, 5-44.1, 7-11.1 and 7-57.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, enrollment, counseling services, physical education and athletic, vocational education, instructional materials, extracurricular activities, and employment.

Title IX Notice: Complaints or concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual harassment should be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator at the VBCPS Office of Student Leadership, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, 23452, (757) 263-2020, Robin.Resse@vbschools.com (student complaints) or the VBCPS Department of School Leadership, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456, (757) 263-1088, Robert.Wnukowski@vbschools.com (employee complaints). Additional information regarding Virginia Beach City Public Schools' policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual harassment, as well as the procedures for filing a formal complaint and related grievance processes, can be found in School Board Policy 5-44 and School Board Regulations 5-44.1 (students), School Board Policy 4-4 and School Board Regulation 4-4.3 (employees) and on the School Division's website at [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Title IX](#). Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Plaza Annex/Family and Community Engagement Center, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

The School Division is committed to providing educational environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Students, staff, parents/legal guardians who have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or bullying should contact the school administration at their school. Promptly reporting concerns will allow the school to take appropriate actions to investigate and resolve issues. School Board Policy 5-7 addresses non-discrimination and anti-harassment, Policy 5-44 addresses sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender. Policy 5-36 and its supporting regulations address other forms of harassment.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials, are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at Erin.Mullins@vbschools.com.

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your virtual link to Hampton Roads' largest school system



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