

# Briar Woods High School Photojournalism

**Photojournalism 1, 2 & 3**  
**Mrs. Mai, Adviser – Room 400, cmai@lcps.org**  
**2015-2016**

The overall objective of this class is to plan, develop and produce *The Flight* yearbook. During the course of the year, the class will be introduced to a wide variety of skills involved in the creation of the yearbook, including sports and candid photography, computer graphic design, and extensive writing.

## Course Outline

### Course Objectives:

A course in photojournalism (yearbook) has two primary objectives: 1) to produce a quality publication that will maintain a tradition of excellence, and 2) to teach the staff the skills required to create that publication. In order to accomplish these objectives, photojournalism students will devote their time to the following activities:

- Gaining proficiency in desktop publishing with our online publication program through Jostens
- Learning and applying a growing knowledge of Adobe PhotoShop
- Incorporating current design principles into the 2015 publication
- Learning and using journalistic writing techniques
- Learning and using advanced photography techniques
- Developing student leadership and decision-making skills
- Finding ways to include every student and staff member in each publication – multiple times!
- And most importantly, producing a yearbook the faculty, the school, and the community can enjoy - a publication which covers the school year and of which we can all be proud.

### Expectations:

Four basic attitudes will be critical to the success of the 2015-16 *Flight* staff:

- **Timeliness:** Staff members will be expected to meet all deadlines. All staff members will also be expected to be on time for class, meetings, photo shoots, and interviews.
- **Risk-taking:** Staff members must be willing to take a risk and to try something new. Risk-taking may involve interviewing someone you do not know or learning how to use the computer.
- **Responsibility:** When a student agrees to take on the responsibility of working on a student publication, the student must also assume responsibility for his/her actions. Whenever a staff member is out in the school or larger community fulfilling publication responsibilities, that student must act as a representative of the entire school.
- **Attention to Detail:** Photojournalism is a perfectionist's business. Staff must pay attention to details because details cost money.

## **Grading:**

Journalism students will earn points for both the quality and quantity of their work. Class participation is pertinent to our production of the yearbook, so students are held responsible for contributing their ideas in class – both written and verbal. Students can expect to lose points – and to earn lower overall grades – when work is sloppily done and/or turned in late. I will not hesitate to assign a student a grade that reflects a failure to meet deadlines or to complete assignments with an attention to detail. Staff members can expect to do a single assignment several times without receiving additional credit because, ultimately, most student assignments will be published.

## **Materials:**

Each staff member would do well to have a point-and-click camera (or better) as well as a steno notebook that will serve as his/her interview notebook. Students are required to have their own SD card for using our school cameras. Each card should be labeled with student initials.

## **After-School Meetings:**

Some assignments – particularly photo shoots and interviews – will be completed before and after school, during lunch, or on the weekends. Staff members should plan transportation needs and homework schedules accordingly. As a deadline approaches, staff members will be required to work after school or on the weekends as necessary to meet the deadline. Because our publication program is internet based, students have the flexibility to finish assignments at home, but this also means that *there is very little excuse for not completing work for a deadline!*

## **Ethics:**

Members of the Briar Woods High School community are committed to upholding the integrity of our honor code at all times. As a teacher and member of this community, I am committed to supporting honest, individual student achievement; therefore, I will uphold and enforce the policies and procedures outlined in the Briar Woods Honor Code. I expect students and parents/guardians to be familiar with the code and to adhere to its guidelines at all times.

## **Once the production is finished for the year:**

Once production is finished in the spring, students will be expected to participate in all classroom activities and to complete assignments as requested by the teacher. It is during this “down time” that students are able to plan and prepare for the next year, including advertising and recruiting, and they are able to build a stronger team.

**One final note:** As the adviser for the publication, it is my responsibility to ensure that all the course expectations are met, but it is also part of my job to make sure that each student’s ideas are heard and explored, and that the students feel that the yearbook truly represents them and their school. It is my privilege to work with the ambitious students that choose to enter this class, and a joy to watch them develop not only as capable students, but as leaders in the school.