



Journalism

Ms. Wagner, E200

Welcome to Journalism! This is a hands-on class which will require that you complete writing assignments, computer-aided work and newspaper design. Together we will explore the basics of journalism, including legal and ethical issues, journalistic writing, and design.

Required materials for class:

- folder or binder for organizing and storing work and handouts
- a portable flash drive or a reusable CDRW is recommended for transporting writing assignments
- assignment notebook – to be brought to class each day

Grading: Students will be assessed in various areas, the most important of which are:

Writing: meets criteria of assignment; follows journalistic style; is free from error (factual or mechanical); there are steep penalties for turning in sloppy work that has not been proofread and corrected

Research: aids in development of journalistic writing; presents most complete information to audience; is varied and understandable; utilizes the best sources available

Design: meets criteria of assignment; follows concepts of entry points and is reader friendly; demonstrates understanding of modular design

Participation: punctual, active in discussions, proper use of lab and equipment, etc.

Late work: Students may turn in work one day late for half credit. Work turned in any later will be assessed for student feedback but no credit will be given.

Grading scale: This course will follow the approved Lake Zurich High School English Department grading scale. Consistent with school policy, there is no rounding for any portion of this class. Grades are based on the accumulation of points.

100-97 = A+	96-93 = A	92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+	86-83 = B	82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+	76-73 = C	72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+	66-63 = D	62-60 = D- Below 60 = F

Computer lab use: Failure to observe the following rules or use common sense about equipment may result in disciplinary referral, suspension from computer use, or removal from class.

- NO GOOFING OFF. That means: no computer games, myspace, email, music videos, etc.
- No eating/drinking in the lab.
- Do not change the background screen, sound, control panel or any other function of the computer.
- The printer is to be used for journalism work only. Please do not print hand-drawn pictures, clip art, messages to your friends or other homework assignments.
- Do not leave disks, CDs, or flashdrives in the machine –you may not get them back!
- Do not use inappropriate language on document files, disks or in articles.
- Report missing or broken equipment, broken chairs, and anything else out of the ordinary.

Plagiarism and cheating: Both infractions result in a 0 on the assignment and a disciplinary referral. Though I encourage cooperative learning on assignments, I discourage copying of assignments or of others' articles. Always be original and be yourself!

Classroom rules of conduct: This is a very 'free' learning environment and you must act maturely. Follow your student handbook, use common sense and act responsibly. If you do that, having fun and learning a new subject will be a breeze! ☺

Contact information: carolyn.wagner@LZ95.org or 847.540.4773

Journalism: Classroom Contract

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please review the attached policies for my class regarding homework and discipline. To acknowledge that you have seen and understand our classroom expectations, please sign below and ask your son/daughter to do the same. Please return this sheet to me by this Friday; if I do not have the form by then, your child may be removed from this elective course. Please keep the policies handy if you need to refer to them at a later time or would like to have my contact information.

Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to working with your son/daughter and am sure that this will be a successful semester!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Wagner
English Department

“I hereby certify that I have read and understand the work and behavioral expectations of Ms. Wagner’s class and have discussed these with my child. I have contacted Ms. Wagner with any questions or concerns.”

Parent’s/Guardian’s signature: _____

“I hereby certify I have read and understand the expectations of Ms. Wagner’s class and know I will be held accountable to the rules explained. I have contacted Ms. Wagner with any questions or concerns.”

Student’s name [Please print!]: _____

Student’s signature: _____

Date: _____ **Class Period:** _____