Course Syllabus for:  
ADVANCED JOURNALISM (THE WRANGLER NEWSPAPER)

Contact  
Mrs. C. Kroeker  
George Ranch High School  
8181 FM 762  
Richmond, Texas 77469  
832-223-4251  
Room 1425  
c Kroeker@lcisd.org  
@mrsckroeker  
Class Code: see teacher  
Text @grwrangler to 81010

Wrangler Newspaper Contacts  
@thewranglermag  
thewranglermag  
The Wrangler Magazine

Course: Advanced Journalism  
Grade Level(s): 9-12  
Prerequisites: Journalism  
Credits: 1

Course Description  
A lab for student journalists to expand  
skills in writing, research, photography,  
interviewing, technology, statistics,  
design, communication and problem  
solving while producing a student  
publication relevant and entertaining to  
students, faculty and the community.

Instructional Philosophy  
Being a lab atmosphere, most work will be completed individually or in small groups, but  
student must work with others as a team. Students are expected to brainstorm and write  
stories while researching and interviewing. The instructor will reinforce skills in AP style  
writing and other journalism skills.

Instructional Methodology  
Lecture, Group and Individual Activities, Writing, Audio/Visual Aids

Course Goals  
- Produce a high-quality newspaper as an end result of instruction and expansion of  
  journalism skills  
- Design and execute a successful advertising and sales campaign using surveys, stats and  
  other media outlets  
- Expand skills in copy editing, proofreading and design for publications  
- Examine and expand writing and reporting methods  
- Know and use media outlets to enhance coverage and needs of the audience  
- Learn time management skills by meeting deadlines  
- Learn, understand, and apply organization planning, self-management in group dynamics  
  and student leadership  
- Use and understand press law and legal issues related to publications and student  
  publications  
- Use and understand principles of design, photojournalism and coverage  
- Use and understand public relation skills by interviewing

Course Expectations  
- A willingness to take risks with your writing.  
- Some way of organizing any papers you receive or print out (a binder, pocket folder, etc.)  
- Write, and you will write a lot. There will be times when it is very structured and times  
  when you can make a lot of choices.  
- Be on time. Be prepared. Work hard.  
- Writing your thoughts and sharing them with others is a very personal experience. Be  
  respectful of other people’s work. When we are sharing our writing, you are courteous  
  and listen. You laugh if it is appropriate. You give help when asked.  
- You do not “pack up” when I am still teaching and/or other students are discussing. It is  
  rude and distracting to all. The bell doesn’t dismiss, I do.  
- You do not leave trash in the room (i.e. empty water bottles and gum wrappers).  
- At the end of class push in your chairs and return your laptop to the proper location.  
- Use only the laptop assigned to you.  
- You are respectful to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself at all times.  
- You do not get up and walk around when I am teaching.

Assessment  
- 60% Major Assessment/Project.  
- 40% Assignments/Daily Work.

Projects and Assignments/Deadlines  
- 4 student print magazines and weekly updated online newspaper.
Required Items
- Calendar/Planner/MLD with calendar
- Flashdrive recommended or cloud account (One Drive)
- Pencils, Pens
- SD Card Minimum 8GB, but higher is better (A 16GB is available from me for $8.50)
- College-ruled notebook paper

Recommended Items
- Digital voice recorder or telephone that you can record audio
- Camera or smart phone that you can take pictures with, and know how to get the pictures off the camera
- The Associated Press Stylebook 2015+ (Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law) [Paperback]

Computers
- We are very fortunate to have a class set of laptop computers. You will be assigned one and you may only use that particular laptop. If you have your own that you want to bring you can do so, but you are responsible for it.
- You will be signing an “Equipment Use” form that says that if you damage the computer it will be your responsibility to pay for the repair and or replacement.
- Do not have any food or liquid around the laptops.
- The computers are not here for you to play games or watch videos. Use them wisely or you may find you lose the privilege of using one.

Policies and Procedures
- Refer to LCISD High School’s student handbook concerning policies on late work, attendance, tardies, and academic dishonesty.
- Late Work:
  Will be accepted as per district policy. Missed deadlines will significantly impact your grade.
- Attendance:
  The best way to alleviate any of these absence issues regarding homework and missing grades is to simply come to school!
- Tardies:
  Be on time. If tardies become an issue a referral will be written and parents will be contacted.
- If you are absent, please look on Edmodo to see what you have missed. Speak to me about missed work and instruction. It is your responsibility to make sure that you make up any missed work. Failure to do so in a timely manner will result in a zero in the grade book for the missing work.

Academic Dishonesty (taken from LCISD Student Handbook)
- Cheating
  “Cheating is defined as giving, receiving, and/or using unauthorized information on a test or submitting duplicate work for individual assignments. Students involved in cheating will receive a zero for the assignment. A discipline consequence in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct may be assigned to a student found guilty of cheating, and the parents will be notified. Policy EIA (Local)”
- Plagiarism Definition
  “Plagiarism consists of representing another person’s ideas or writing as one’s own. Plagiarism will be considered cheating, and the student shall be subject to disciplinary action. Policy EIA (Local)”

When you copy someone’s words or their ideas you are plagiarizing. For example – if you read a poem and you like it and think you can just change a few words that is plagiarism. If you copy and paste directly from the Internet, you are stealing someone else’s work. If you do take something exactly as it is stated, you need to put it in quotation marks and write the attribution (who wrote it originally.) If you takes someone’s ideas and claim them as your own that is an ethics violation. If you make up quotes and attribute them to someone when that is not what they said that is an ethics violation. You cannot make up quotes. I have read a lot of student writing and when you copy someone else’s work it usually screams out at me. Don’t do it. I am pretty good at catching it. If necessary we will use turnitin.com for submissions. Should you choose to plagiarize you will receive a zero for the assignment and a referral to administration. That zero cannot be reassessed.

ETHICS – Take time to read these two resources regarding journalistic ethics.
http://www.studentpress.org/nspa/pdf/wheel_modelcodeofethics.pdf
http://resources.asnemissourian.com/spjethicscode.pdf

Should a student have an ethics violation with regards to the writing of a story, a referral to administration will occur. As well, the student will receive a zero for the story.

Grades
Student Performance is reported using numerical grades:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 89</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
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Course Schedule: Subject to change as needed

Semester 1
- Produce 2 magazines

Semester 2
- Produce 2 magazines
STUDENT AGREEMENT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Please return to Mrs. Kroeker by Friday, September 1, 2017.

As a student in Mrs. Kroeker’s Advanced Journalism class, I have read all the information in the syllabus and understand all that is expected of me.

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________  
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Student Signature: __________________________________________________________

(Indicate yes or no)

_____ I have a cell phone that I can take pictures with

_____ I have a SLR camera that I can bring to school to take pictures with

_____ I understand that I must have a SD card (minimum 8)

As the parent/guardian, I understand the expectations for my child in this class.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____________________________________________________  
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Parent / Guardian Signature: ________________________________________________

Best way to contact parent/guardian: E-mail: □  Phone: □

Parent/Guardian E-mail Addresses:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Telephone Numbers:

Name: ________________________  Cell: ______________ Work: _________________

Name: ________________________  Cell: ______________ Work: _________________

Name: ________________________  Cell: ______________ Work: _________________
**Equipment Contract**

Students will be working with expensive equipment and are responsible for them from the moment they sign it out until it is returned to Mrs. Kroeker. Please carefully read the following release and sign at the bottom.

**Camera Use**
School cameras are the student’s responsibility after checkout. A student must pay for damages that occur to a camera while in his/her care (including but not limited to dropping, breakage, careless handling and water damage). The student is also responsible if it is stolen and the theft will be reported to the school security office and/or administration if warranted.

**Computer Use**
Students will be using the computers on a daily basis and are responsible for any damage that may occur to that computer. Students will be assigned a computer and you may only use that particular laptop. Students turned in an Acceptable Use Agreement form prior to registration and must have Internet permission to use it. Students are to use the computers for research and class assignments only. The computers are not here for you to play games or watch videos. Use them wisely or you may find you lose the privilege of using one. Students may lose permission to use the computer after the first offense and are not allowed to use the computers for other class assignments.
Any damage done to the computer will be reported to administrators if warranted.

**Miscellaneous Technology Use**
Students may use other technology (voice recorders, headphones, etc.) and are responsible for them when in their possession.
Any damage done to the equipment will be reported to administrators if warranted.

If any equipment is lost, stolen, damaged, etc. and the student needs to pay the fees, payment plans are available. Any student who loses equipment will be placed on the delinquent list and will not be able to register for next year and/or graduate.

I agree to let my child use the class’ technology devices and I understand the guidelines/consequences stated above

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