NNHS English 2: Journalism Syllabus

Mission
To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors.

Course Description
English 2 is a 10th grade Communication Arts course in District 203 that fulfills one of your English credits. It is a year-long course in which reading, writing, speaking, and listening instruction is employed to help students become better consumers and users of language. In addition, English 2 was designed to help students meet the Common Core State Standards for Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. These standards will be taught and assessed throughout the year.

The journalism track of English 2 will accomplish all of the previously mentioned objectives, but with a focus on journalistic principles, reading materials, and both written and multimedia assignments. We will learn to find information and communicate it quickly, accurately and clearly. We will examine the purpose and effect of print versus multimedia conduits on the reader.

English 2 will teach students the skills necessary to be college and career ready by the time they graduate high school. These skills will then be transferrable to other language-related tasks students may encounter across the curriculum and in their adult lives. Skills specific to journalism will directly prepare students for positions on student-run school publications as well as personal social and multimedia publishing experiences.

English 2 is an advanced course that requires students to adapt quickly and seek out information and report it as model digital citizens.

Grading:

Category Breakdown for Semester Grade:
- 90% Coursework
- 10% Quarterly District Benchmark Assessments

Course Grade
Each unit/standard is assigned a particular percentage.
Writing – 50%
Reading – 30%
Speaking and Listening — 20%
Within each unit, summative and formative sections are weighted as follows:

100% Summative; 0% Formative

- **Formative assessments** are informal assessments during the learning process to improve student achievement. These count for 0 points. These are often considered “practice” activities. Feedback will often be given, and each assignment may be listed in the grade book but not for points that count toward the overall grade. A letter grade or comment may be posted to indicate whether or not the completion of the assignment has occurred and whether or not that completed assignment has demonstrated mastery of the skill being practiced. Examples of formative assessments include daily homework, reading quizzes, short written responses, rough drafts, etc.

- **Summative assessments** summarize the development of learners at a particular time and gauge student learning relative to content standards. These assessments will be graded and count for 100% of the grade. Examples of summative assessments are story assignments (news, features, etc.), major papers, projects, presentations, tests, etc. On time performance is a standard in journalism classes. Late summative assessments will be deducted 10 percent for each day past the deadline.

- The **final exam** for first semester is comprised of a selected response test and a presentation. Second semester, the second district assessment will be counted as the final exam.

**Reassessment Policy**

Criteria for reassessment on selected writing assignments:

1. Story/piece is turned in on time.
2. All relevant formative work (including rough draft) is completed on time.
3. Student must decide within two days of paper pass-back that he or she will rewrite the story/piece.
4. A new due date will be agreed upon by teacher and student between one and two weeks from pass-back date.
5. Student can receive no higher than an 80% on reassessments.
6. Timed writings cannot be re-assessed.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to demonstrate a high degree of academic integrity in all of their classes at NNHS. Students should neither give nor receive unauthorized help on any assignment. Teachers will clearly articulate when collaboration is acceptable. In addition, all work should be original. **Students are not allowed to turn in work that was originally produced for another class.** In addition, plagiarism (taking credit for words and/or ideas that are not your own) will not be tolerated. You must do your own work! Please talk to your teacher if you have questions about source citation or paraphrasing. Journalistic writing places a primary emphasis on the use and attribution of sources, so the use of unattributed sources will not be tolerated. To help you avoid documentation errors and assess originality, **all major papers and essays must be submitted either to Turnitin.com, or via a class Canvas site set up to run a paper through Turnitin.com.** All incidents of cheating, unauthorized collaboration, and plagiarism will be handled according to the Academic Integrity Policy described in the student planner. This is a serious issue; please communicate questions and concerns to your teacher when they arise.