



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

***Department of Teaching & Learning***  
***Parent/Student Course Information***

***Journalism II/III Grades 11 and 12***  
***(LA1210, LA1220)***

*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 students practical experience in print media. Students apply and refine the principles learned in Journalism I by producing and publishing articles for the public: newspaper and online formats. Students participate in all phases of production: write and edit in journalistic format; design and layout advertising; edit and lay out copy; and take, develop, and print photographs. The students must be committed to deadlines and be willing to take initiative and responsibility. Instruction is delivered about ethics and law surrounding reporting, writing, and digital journalism. Advice is available at all times 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.

**PREREQUISITE**

Journalism I

**OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE**

Journalism III (for students of Journalism II)

**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
- Producing the publication
- Demonstrating proficiency in a variety of journalistic writing
- Demonstrating good design techniques
- Evaluating journalistic products
- Demonstrating proficiency in interviewing
- Writing articles based on research (interviews, library research, polls, surveys, consumer reports)
- Copyreading and proofreading accurately

## **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.

E 1.3.3 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.

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent  
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Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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*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 The Department of Teaching and Learning, 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 [Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com](mailto:Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com).*

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