

# TPHS Course Profile

## Journalism

**GRADES: 9-12 (10 Credits)**

- *Meets high school graduation requirement for Elective*
- *Career Technical Education (CTE) Course*



### General Information

#### Description

Journalism I is the prerequisite for Advanced Journalism, the production class for the national award-winning Torrey Pines High School Falconer newspaper, but it is valuable whether or not you plan to apply to the Falconer staff.

Students in beginning journalism learn the skills necessary to produce a newspaper as well as the rights and responsibilities facing working journalists. Instruction includes lessons concerning how to distinguish “fake news” from fact, press law and ethics, the effects of corporate ownership of the media, and the influx of new media paradigms — despite the decline of print journalism, reporting and journalistic skills are needed now more than ever as the number of media outlets skyrockets and opinion, punditry and outright falsehood masquerade as news. Skills learned include: generating newsworthy story ideas, researching sources, reporting and interviewing techniques, writing news stories, feature stories, personality profiles, opinion pieces, reviews, and sports stories including game coverage and sports features. We will also specifically discuss First Amendment rights, protections and limitations and California’s strong defense of student journalists.

#### Expectations and Goals

All newspaper production is done using Adobe Creative Suite publishing software, including Photoshop and InDesign. Production is strictly the responsibility of students and is submitted digitally to local printers. Students are introduced to the business aspect of production including designing and selling advertisements, offering an entrepreneurial experience. Students also use digital media for purposes including instruction and creation of audio and video products. Students have the opportunity to participate in field trips and meet professionals in the field as guest speakers.

#### Outcomes:

Training in writing for journalism is the best possible training for writing across the board. It emphasizes accuracy, precision, and spareness, which benefit writing for English and every other class you will ever take or the job you will ever have. Journalists know how to pare their writing to the essential and how to choose exactly the right word for the right use. You will be a better writer than you have ever been after taking journalism.

