Welcome to Journalism

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
A self-paced course designed for students to learn and refine the skills necessary for journalistic writing and layout, while contributing to the production of the school newspaper. This course provides a hands-on learning experience where students will engage in writing articles, interviewing sources, and designing the layout of the publication. Emphasis will be placed on developing strong writing, editing, and organizational skills while understanding the fundamentals of news reporting and publishing.

Unit 1: Introduction to Journalism and News Writing
- **Objective:** Understand the key principles of journalism, including ethics, accuracy, and objectivity.
- Learn the structure of news articles, including the inverted pyramid style.
- Write news stories based on school events, current events, and interviews.
- Study different journalistic styles and formats such as feature stories, hard news, and editorials.

Unit 2: Investigative Journalism and Feature Writing
- **Objective:** Explore investigative journalism techniques and how to craft compelling feature stories.
- Learn how to investigate topics, gather in-depth information, and present findings in an engaging way.
- Write feature articles on topics of interest to the school community.
- Understand the role of investigative journalism in uncovering truths and holding people accountable.

Unit 3: Layout and Design for the School Newspaper
- **Objective:** Understand the role of layout and design in making the school newspaper visually appealing and easy to navigate.
- Learn basic principles of graphic design, including layout, typography, and visual hierarchy.
- Use digital tools to design pages, incorporating text, images, and graphics.
- Ensure each issue is well-organized and consistent in design and style.

Unit 4: Editorial and Opinion Writing
- **Objective:** Develop skills in writing editorials and opinion pieces that reflect informed perspectives.
- Learn how to craft persuasive arguments, supporting claims with evidence and analysis.
- Write editorials on school policies, current events, and relevant social issues.
- Explore the role of opinion writing in fostering community dialogue and debate.

Outcomes:
- Mastery of the key components of news writing, including the inverted pyramid structure.
- Ability to conduct interviews and write feature articles with depth and clarity.
- Competence in layout and design, ensuring a visually appealing and readable school newspaper.
- Creation of editorial and opinion pieces that reflect critical thinking and persuasive writing.

Course Summary
Journalism, Semester 1 is an interactive course that will immerse students in the world of journalistic writing and production. Students will gain experience in writing news and feature articles, conducting interviews, and designing the layout for the school newspaper. Emphasis will be placed on meeting deadlines, working independently, and refining writing and editing skills. To successfully complete the course, students must demonstrate an ability to work on school projects independently, be available for after-school and weekend work, and contribute to the creation of a high-quality publication.