Course Description:
This course covers the events of gathering information, writing, editing, page layout, photography, advertising and design specifically related to yearbooks. Students also study other media forms especially modern digital media including social media, although the focus is yearbook and students have assignments related to the production of the school yearbook, Patriot. Students will have the opportunity to have their work published in the yearbook. In this course students serve as the yearbook staff members and editors of the Patriot and handle all aspects of production, from cover design to story planning, writing, designing, photographing and advertising.

ESA and the State Standards They Address:
Writing: feature story, news story, captions, headlines and alternative copy. Design: Using Jostens YTO to create a double-page spread following basic design principles, as well as incorporating Photoshop to adjust color and lighting of images,. Reporting: Emphasis is based on core “life” skills such as observation and curiosity, working in a collaborative environment, and interviewing. Students then work to report in modular format usually containing images, graphics, and written reporting. Story development is a key component to successful production. Photo: Shooting and uploading/editing a sports shoot, academics shoot, dance shoot, and extra-curricular shoot. Overall: Meeting deadlines is an essential skill for this class since it is a critical life skill and the daily aspect of all media-related careers. The experiences in this class will prepare students for work on a professional magazine, newspaper, advertising agency, college major in journalism, marketing, finance and business and/or a variety of other employment opportunities and life experiences. The curriculum is built around state technology and 21st Century standards / Common Core Standards.

Grading:
We follow the traditional school grading scale with a minimum percentage of 60 percent and no missing essential skills in order to achieve a passing grade. Below a 70 or any missing essential skill will earn a progress report and could result in a failure grade and removal from the class at the semester. Extra credit is offered occasionally, but not on an individual basis. Scoring guides are provided for all assignments.

Late Work Policy:
Professional journalists must work under tight deadline constraints, so turning in work on time is critical to your success in this class. Late work, in this field, is sometimes “irrelevant” because work cannot be published if it is turned in after pages go to press. Work submitted after the due date will lose a letter grade for each day or partial day late and may only be submitted within one week of the original due date. Due to specific company-issued yearbook deadlines, penalties will be greater for late work on a monthly page deadline: half credit for late work, period. If you have missed an essential skill and you make it up after the one-week grace period, it will be cleared for “passing status but will not be worth points since it is beyond the deadline. There will be a few occasions on which assignments will not be accepted late due to our deadlines; if this is the case, you will know at the time of the assignment that late work is not an option. The bottom line is that you should strive to submit high quality work on time.

Interventions:
Not everyone will be a great writer, photographer or designer, but everyone can have a great experience in this class. If you do quality work, you will pass. To update you and inform your parents progress, I use e-mail, school website, PowerSchool and in some cases, conferences. I am available for help during my prep period and after school (by appointment). Using YTO is helpful that you are able to log on and edit pages from any computer. Steady improvement and a willingness to learn will get you far. E-mail is the best way to reach me.