

## **372 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

A high school student newspaper shall be published in the school district which should:

- provide a learning experience both for those involved in its production and the recipients of the finished product;
- educate the community in the work of the school and the achievements of the students and student organizations; and
- promote communications among students, the faculty, the administration and other schools.

The student newspaper should be free to exercise the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution - freedom of the press and of speech without fear of recrimination. The newspaper should have the freedom to cover, within the bounds of good taste, all areas of pertinent news, including school, local, state, and international news. The newspaper's emphasis and priority, will be placed on school news.

In order to attain these freedoms and experiences, students will be offered opportunities to inform, entertain, investigate, interpret, and evaluate all aspects of life. The newspaper will also encourage and stimulate worthwhile activities and aid in developing acceptable standards of conduct. It will make special efforts to mention as many people as possible, thus representing an accurate cross-section of the student body.

The newspaper should also have the freedom to aim constructive criticism at school organizations, procedures and policies, but it should refrain from criticizing individuals in the editorial section.

1. Editorials - All editorials should reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff, and be approved by a cross-section of the editorial staff. However, all statements and editorials must be substantiated by fact.
2. Editorial columns - An editorial column is defined as a persuasive column appearing on the editorial page, which expresses only the opinion of the writer. Such a column should be bylined, be in good taste, and never infringe on anyone's rights.
3. Letters to the Editor - For those not directly involved in production, the editorial page will be open to any student wishing for expression of ideas. The newspaper will print an accurate representation of the letters to the editor. The newspaper, however, reserves the right to publish letters with the author's name unless the author requests that his/her name not be printed. The names will be available to anyone upon demand, if they have a valid reason for their request.

The executive committee of the newspaper, composed of the editor-in-chief, the advisor, the business manager, and the page editors, will act as the governing body of the newspaper, and will be held accountable for the enforcement of this policy. The editor-in-chief shall head the committee.

The advisor is responsible for reviewing all articles to be printed. Authority to censor the newspaper should be restricted to the newspaper staff and the advisor. Only when compromise cannot be reached should a third party be consulted. The third party should be a faculty member or administrator. Censorship may be used in instances of libel, invasion of privacy, scorn, ridicule, contempt, copyright violation, obscenity, pornographic pictures, offensive slang or suggestive of violent intentions.

The printing of a byline to denote authorship of any article will be left to the editor's discretion, and it will be applied in instances of articles of outstanding or unusual quality.

In summary, it is recognized that students will be provided with a tool in which to exercise freedom of the press and this freedom will not be unduly hampered. The newspaper recognizes its responsibility to provide an outlet for all diverse opinions, to report all aspects of student life, and to do this in an accurate, fair and objective manner.

APPROVED: November 11, 1974

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