



Application for 2019-2020 School Year

ABOUT THE COURSE...

Newspaper Journalism is a zero-period elective, which means you are at school at least one full hour before your peers every day. Unlike your required English class, this course allows you to experience photography, design, editing, and business in real world terms. It is also an environment that welcomes visionary thinkers, writers and risk takers.

This course is a combination of **hard work**, **integrity** and **commitment**. Do not apply if you are not willing or able to meet deadlines consistently, be punctual to class in the morning, put in many extra hours after school or take criticism about your writing.

THIS COURSE IS NOT AN EASY A!

Consider the following. If you answer YES! to each question, then fill out your application immediately!

- ✓ If accepted, I would make *Northwest Horizons* one of my highest priorities in the 2019-2020 school year.
- ✓ I would work after school and on weekends if that's what it takes to meet deadlines.
- ✓ I would work hard at learning all aspects of newspaper publication. This means even if I'm a staff writer, I have a desire to learn about editing and layout from the section editors.
- ✓ I would be willing to talk to people I do not know and conduct ample interviewing to get a well-rounded, unbiased story.
- ✓ I would cover events or complete tasks related to the newspaper that may require work off school grounds. It would be my responsibility (and/or my parents' or guardians' responsibility) to provide transportation.
- ✓ I would help with the financial commitment of selling advertising. **This is key!!!**
- ✓ I would be responsible for computer equipment, cameras, and other materials. This includes being accountable if anything is lost, stolen or misused.

HOW DO I APPLY?

First, fill out this application honestly. Secure the appropriate references and submit a COMPLETED application in a **LARGE BROWN ENVELOPE** clearly labeled with your name to Mrs. Huynh-Duc in room 102 by **Friday, January 25**. You will need one letter of recommendation from a current teacher and a writing sample.

Then, as soon as possible, Mrs. Huynh-Duc will let you know the results of your application. If you are accepted, please register for it during the registration period and/or let your guidance counselor know. If you are not, please don't be disheartened...this elective is competitive, and often, we have to make cuts based on grade level (for example, we don't want a class of all juniors). Feel free to volunteer as a "contributing writer" this year (come by room 102 for more information) and try again next year.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO MRS. HUYNH-DUC IN ROOM 102 BY JANUARY 25!

Basic Information

Name _____ Grade Level This Year _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____ (required)

Student Information

CIRCLE BELOW: How would you describe yourself academically?

-Straight-A student

-Mostly an A-student

-A's and B's

-A's, B's, and C's

-A's, B's, C's, and the occasional D

-Other (explain)

Total Number of Full-Day Absences so far this year (2018-2019) _____

List the classes that you plan to take next school year (2019-2020)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

List the English teachers you have had and the grades you have received in those classes

Teacher	Honors (Y/N)	1 st Semester Grade	2 nd Semester Grade (if applicable)

Extracurricular Activities-*List only those which you are involved with during the school year*

Activity	Hours/Week	Weeks/Year	Positions Held

- Have you ever received detention or ISS since being a student at Northwest? If yes, explain why.
- Have you ever been suspended from school (OSS)? If yes, explain why.
- Do you drive? _____ Do you have your own car? _____

Computer Knowledge: Indicate your level of proficiency with each of the following programs as well as the platform and version you most frequently use (1-10, 1 for no experience, 10 for expert). You may be asked to demonstrate skills on programs you consider yourself good at.

Adobe Photoshop _____

Adobe InDesign _____

Microsoft Word _____

Sending Attachments via Email _____

Using a flash or USB drive _____

Video Editing (iMovie, some other program?) _____

Website Editing (WordPress, specifically _____

Photography Experience: How comfortable are you with using a digital camera? Explain your experience with photography below.

Do you have your own DSLR?

Personal Statements: Please answer each of the following questions so we can evaluate your reasons for joining journalism. Feel free to attach a separate piece of paper for your answers.

1. Why do you want to join *Northwest Horizons*? What sets you apart from other students?

2. What is one word that best sums up your personality, and why?

3. Are you an *adventure* seeker or a *comfort* seeker? Why?

4. What do you feel would be a good interview question? What would *your* response be?

5. What changes would you like to see in our school newspaper for the 2019-2020 school year?

6. Finally, please also enclose or attach a typed writing sample. It can be a paper for an English class, a short story you've written, etc. While you do not have to be a perfect writer, this course requires some natural skill to write with fluidity.

To Be Completed by the Applicant

Please give a copy of this form to one of your teachers this year. He or she must place the completed form in a sealed envelope, sign his or her name over the seal, and return it to you.

Applicant Name: _____

I waive my right to review this reference: YES NO

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To Be Completed by the Reference Provider:

This reference form is extremely important in determining whom we should select to be on the *Northwest Horizons* school newspaper staff. Please provide an honest and thorough assessment of the applicant. Thank you for taking a few moments to complete this form.

Your Name: _____ Position: _____

- 1) In what capacity do you know the applicant?

- 2) Do you have any reservations about this applicant's ability to serve on staff for the school newspaper?

Personal Characteristics (Please check the appropriate box for each adjective)

I have found this person to be:

	Never	Infrequently	Sometimes	Often	Always	N/A*
Dependable						
Punctual						
Mature						
Flexible						
Imaginative						
Self-confident						
Focused						
Determined						
Willing to accept responsibility						
Willing to accept criticism						
A "team player"						
A leader						
Able to relate well to others						
A positive role model						
Respectful of authority						
Honest and trustworthy						

*N/A indicates that you are unable to measure this item in reference to your experience with this applicant.

Please comment on the above ratings or share any other information about the applicant that you think is relevant to his/her enrollment in Newspaper Journalism for the 2019-2020 school year.

Please give your candid recommendation of this candidate for *Northwest Horizons*.

Highly Recommend Recommend

Recommend with Reservations Do Not Recommend

Signature _____

Date _____

Please seal this form in an envelope, sign your name across the seal, and return to the candidate.

THANK YOU!