

Mounds View Public Schools Ends and Goals Regulation

EG – 3113 Student News Publications

This Regulation is written in support of Policy EG-3101 - Student Conduct.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to allow students who are enrolled in the journalism classes offered at the District's high schools the latitude legally allowed to publish newspaper articles that are consistent with the tenets of responsible journalism taught as part of the journalism classes, and with state and federal law.

II. Policy

Prior to the publication of any newspaper or article by any high school journalism class, the students in the class will adopt a written policy. This policy will include the following:

1. The organizational structure for the newspaper produced by the class, including the responsibilities of, and procedures for selecting, editors and the division of duties among students in the class;
2. A mission statement; and
3. Criteria for the submission and publication of articles and other published material, including criteria governing the content of articles submitted for publication and articles actually published by the class.

The criteria governing the content of articles and other published material must, at a minimum, prohibit the promotion of illegal drug and/or alcohol use, discrimination against people based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, economic status, or national origin, and content containing defaming and/or libelous statements, or profanity.

Once adopted by the class, the policy stays in effect for the remainder of the school year in which it was adopted.

Policies adopted pursuant to this regulation must be approved by the instructor of the journalism class, as well as the building principal.

Policies adopted pursuant to this regulation may be amended by the students enrolled in a high school journalism class. Any amendment to such a policy must be approved by the class instructor and the building principal.

III. Role of the Instructor and the Building Principal

The instructor of a high school journalism class shall also be known as the "advisor" to any newspaper published by that class. In addition to other teaching duties, the instructor of a high school journalism class is responsible for exercising the functions outlined in the Newspaper Advisor job description.

The building principal will consult with the advisor of the newspaper to discuss stories that students are working on for publication.

The instructor of a high school journalism class and the building principal must follow the process outlined in Section IV below.

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Student News Publications (continued)

IV. Process

The building principal and advisor will meet at least three (3) times before each publication deadline to discuss the articles, pictures, editorials, or other materials that students are generating for that issue. Article content, pictures, editorials or other materials to be printed will not be prohibited from publication unless the:

1. Materials selected for publication will cause a “substantial disruption” to the school’s functioning if published; or
2. Publication of the materials will violate any state or federal law or regulation.

If the advisor and principal disagree on whether the material selected for publication meet the standards contained in this Section, the advisor may appeal that decision to the District’s superintendent. The superintendent’s decision will be final.

August 2010