

## Code of Conduct Contract Staff Members of *The Streak*

*To students and parents of students accepted as members of the school newspaper staff:*

Enrollment in journalism and participation on the school newspaper affords students with more freedom than most other classes. It also requires them to take responsibility and exhibit a high degree of maturity and good judgment. As members of a group that produces a concrete product that will be distributed to and read by both students and adults, those named to the staff can expect to be held to accepted journalistic standards and ethical practices. As individuals, they are recognized as representatives of the school newspaper, whether actually on assignment or not. To show that you fully understand the responsibilities of journalism class and newspaper staff membership, please have the attached contract read and signed by both student and parent/guardian.

Signed contracts are due: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Mary Ann McKinney  
Journalism teacher  
Adviser, *The Streak*

Code of Conduct Contract  
school year \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*Your Name*), as a member of the school newspaper staff, agree to abide by the following code of conduct:

1. I will not take advantage of the freedom given staff members to leave class to cover assignments. I will not use journalistic duties as an excuse for playing around inside or outside of class, leaving the building, or disturbing other classes.
2. I will meet deadlines for assignments, peer reviews, and other newspaper projects. If I find that it may be difficult or impossible to meet a deadline, I will inform the editor and/or adviser at the earliest possible moment.
3. I understand that I am expected to devote time outside of class to complete assignments and other projects for the paper. I am willing to devote the equivalent of up to five hours weekly, although this may not be required on a regular basis.
4. I understand that newspaper revenue is generated by advertisement sales, and that I will be required to attempt to sell at least one ad per issue. (One per marking period).
5. I understand that the journalism class is a “workshop” classroom in which I am expected to be consistently productive. I agree to refrain from wasting class time in any way, shape, or form.
6. I agree to produce each article with the mindset that it has the potential to be published. Due to limitations of space, the work produced may not necessarily be published in the issue for which it receives credit. Such work not published cannot again be used for credit if published in the following issue.
7. I understand that plagiarism and/or fabrication will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of a “zero” for that assignment and immediate expulsion from the newspaper staff.
8. I realize that I will be given the privilege of using technological equipment such as computers, scanners, cameras, and USB ports. I agree to show the utmost respect for all equipment and to abide by all rules and sign-out/sign-in procedures.
9. I understand I will be given regular access to the Internet, MCT Campus Wire Service, NewsU, In-Design, and the district server’s Journalism Students folder. I agree to show the utmost respect for these access privileges and to abide by all rules and procedures as they pertain as they pertain to each site and/or program.
10. I recognize that I will be engaging in scholastic journalism in a public school setting and that the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Hazelwood* decision outlines the censorship criteria school administrators may apply to school publications. I will become familiar with the *Hazelwood* decision and I will produce written work with the ethical considerations of the *Hazelwood* decision always in mind.

*I understand that failure to abide by the terms of this contract can lead to my dismissal from staff.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student) (Parent)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_