

Lafayette Student Publications

Image Newsmagazine/lancerfeed.press/@thelancerfeed/Legend Yearbook/Digital Media Production

1. Take A Prerequisite Course (or Qualify for a Waiver)

•**Writing and Reporting** is a one-semester Language Arts elective course which focuses on the content and coverage of publications, information gathering, writing and editing. Students will also learn about press law and ethics. This course is designed to prepare students with the specialized writing skills required for a newspaper or yearbook staff member and meets the pre-requisite for the Newspaper and Yearbook Production classes.

•**Visual Journalism** is a one-semester CTE course in which students analyze and utilize current design trends. Using Adobe desktop publishing software, students will create a variety of printed material including flyers, newspaper pages, magazine spreads, yearbook spreads, ads and graphics. Students will also learn about press law as well gaining a basic understanding of journalism principles and style. This course is designed to prepare students with the specialized desktop publishing skills required for a student publication and meets the pre-requisite for the New Production, Digital Media and Yearbook Production classes.

•**Waivers** will be given to students who have prior coursework or experience that would make them an asset to one of the publications staffs.

2. Join A Staff

•**News Production** is a CTE course where students are responsible for producing the monthly newsmagazine (Image), the online publication (lancerfeed.press) and the publications social media accounts (@thelancerfeed). To be selected for the staff, students must successfully complete one of the pre-requisite courses and be approved by the adviser. It is strongly recommended students select Writing and Reporting as their pre-requisite. If a student takes a pre-requisite course first semester, he or she will be allowed to join staff second semester. Students on the Image serve in many different capacities ranging from writing, designing pages, working on the website, taking photos, selling ads, etc.

•**Yearbook Production** is a CTE course where students are responsible for the production of the school's yearbook, the Legend. To be selected for staff, students must successfully complete one of the pre-requisite courses and be approved by the adviser. If a student takes a pre-requisite course first semester, he or she will be allowed to join staff second semester. Staff members are required to sell ads to fund the book as well as serve as writers, photographers and designers. Because many join staff senior year, no experience is required to be selected as an editor. The adviser will make selections based on a student's willingness to take responsibility, ability to work well with others and basic skills involved in yearbook production. The yearbook is submitted in several deadline shipments between December and June. Students sometimes need to put in extra hours after school or on weekends. Specific skills will be taught to all members selected for staff during the first semester. In addition, members have the opportunity to attend a yearbook workshop over the summer.

•**Digital Media Production** is a full-year CTE course where students produce digital material The Lancer Feed and social media. Students are responsible for planning content and complete all the videography and editing. All students must be approved by the adviser. One of the following pre-requisites is recommended: Writing and Reporting, Visual Journalism or Multimedia Applications.

*In order to be selected for one of the staffs, students must have at least a 2.75 average, a clear disciplinary record and a good attendance record.

3. Take Advantage of Opportunities

Student Publications staffers learn from hands-on experience. Student leaders make all content and design decisions and get the chance to travel to a national journalism convention each year. The day-to-day work and decision making develops organizational skills, leadership ability and teamwork. And, it's fun and looks great on a college application!

Questions? email Nancy Smith at smithnancy@rsdmo.org

Here's What Some Former Students Have To Say About LHS Journalism:

Brendan Rodgers, 2014

I was part of Digital Media and loved every moment. I learned video editing, writing, interview techniques, camera presence, and much more. It was a wonderful start to my morning and taught me many things about media and myself.

Danielle Slauter, 2012

Being on the newspaper was the best part of my high school experience. It helped me discover my love of writing, and I got to be creative for an hour of the day. The staff is great, and it really is such a great community of people.

Hannah Boxerman, 2012

The foundation provided to me by my time at LHS Publications not only made college easier and smoother for me, but helped me find a career path. I have an amazing career I love as an advertising copywriter, and I never would've identified those skills without Mrs. Smith's help and my time working on the newspaper. You'll learn so much about yourself and have a fun time doing it.

Arpan Das, 2017

There's quite a few parallels between the work you do in the journalism program and a professional work setting. Working in teams, on scheduled deadlines, getting and citing sources, and communicating your work so that others can pick up on it if needed are just some of the forever useful skills I learned. Giving interviews definitely broke me out of my shell a little bit and helped develop some skills I didn't know I had. Most importantly, I had fun and got to do work that I found interesting and enjoyed doing. The journalism staff at LHS was a family that I am so glad I joined. Being a part of the team and signing up for Student Publications is a decision I can advise to anyone even remotely interested.

Ryan Bueckendorf, Class of 2008

"Through my involvement in student publications I grew as a leader, writer, and speaker, all while developing a family of lifelong friends and mentors. Hands down one of the best decisions I ever made at Lafayette."

Nicole Castellano, Class of 2008

I was on the newspaper staff, my junior and senior year, and it was probably my favorite memory of high school. I created life long friends, was pushed to become the best I could be, and I realized how much I loved getting to tell other people's stories. To top it off, Smitty is still someone who continues to support me even years after I've graduated. Which says something about her character and commitment to everyone who graces her classroom.

Garrett Tripp, Class of 2009

Taking DVD Yearbook solidified my love for film and television production. I now work for Legendary Television where we produce Lost In Space, Carnival Row, Colony, Looming Tower. Our feature counterpart also made, Pacific Rim, King Kong,Godzilla, Detective Pikachu, Skyscraper. And it's all Nancy Smith's fault.

Heidi Tripp, Class of 2012

Joining the journalism program was a defining moment for my career. On the yearbook, I was able to make new friends, go to school functions I normally wouldn't be able to, and practice real skills like communication, writing, and even some photography. If I hadn't joined, I wouldn't have made friendships that are still lasting 7 years later. Plus, I learned how to effectively work on multiple projects, manage deadlines, and work both independently and on a team, which are skills I still use now as an attorney.

Mia Schenone, Class of 2012

Those classes taught me so much! Even in ways I never expected. I learned good, solid, interviewing skills. I'm in sales now and I need open ended questions to get client to talk to me, beyond the surface level. I need to get to know my clients on a personal level so I they will trust me enough to tell me what issues they have, so I can find the best solution for them. Being able to ask solid "interview" questions allows me to take full advantage of our meetings which saves both myself and my client's time.

Saba Bajwa, Class of 2013

Being part of the Legend staff allowed me to connect with other students and channel my creativity with people who made me look forward to going to school. In medical school and residency, I've used the interviewing and writing skills I learned every day. Not only that but it also gave me the chance to improve my photography skills, and it's now one of my favorite hobbies. I got to make so many fun memories with the best people, and I will never forget all the delicious food we had on our work nights. Every year after our books were printed, it was so rewarding to see the final product come together. I'm grateful I got to be a part of such a great team, and I definitely wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for being on the Legend staff!

Hannah May, Class of 2016

I spent three years on yearbook and it shaped the rest of my education. I went on to major in Journalism at Mizzou with an emphasis in Strategic Communication. And this is why I love yearbook the most... because it opens up so many opportunities. I plan on furthering my career in a Public Relations (PR) & Event Planning position after graduating in May. Yearbook does not mean you're going to take pictures and write captions and complete interviews for the rest of your life. But trust me, you will be so thankful for the experience with adobe software, photography, AP STYLE (I USE THIS EVERYDAY) and most importantly working on a long-term group project with an end goal that requires time management, creativity and passion. Everyday I looked forward to yearbook class, and I am forever grateful for being a part of such an inspiring, hard working and fun organization!

Lauren Parker, Class of 2011

The journalism program opened my eyes to new ways to use my creativity and I was able to find something that really clicked for me. Now at an ad agency, I still use inDesign and Photoshop. Yearbook spurred my interests that have led my career today. And, I made some lifelong friends in the class!

Jordan Lundquist, Class of 2015

I'm still constantly grateful for everything I learned being on yearbook staff.

Amisha Paul, Class of 2019

Joining Student Publications during my freshman year of high school was easily the best decision I made in my 4 years at Lafayette. Inside the newsroom, I found a voice for myself and a great group of friends. I highly recommend joining any one of the three publications at Lafayette for not just a good times but also the great communication skills and technology skills that you acquire.

Anna James, Class of 2017

As a part of LHS Student Publications you get to engage in your school community more than any extra curricular, in my opinion. You get to cover sports, clubs, school news & you get behind the scenes like not many other students do. It's a great opportunity to grow with your student body & get involved with all of the activities our school has to offer!