

Think First

JEA
press rights
commission

Free expression
through
responsible
journalism

CANTON, OHIO, STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

As a preserver of democracy, the Canton City School District shall protect, encourage and enhance free speech and exchange of ideas as a means of protecting our American way of life.

Student publications of the Canton City School District, including newspapers, magazines, yearbooks, web sites, broadcast productions and other published work, have been established as designated public forums for student editors for the discussion of issues of concern to their audiences. Student publications will not be routinely or systematically reviewed or restrained by school officials before publication or distribution.

Student publications and their staffs are protected by the principles of the First Amendment and other protections and limitations afforded by the Constitution and the various court decisions implementing those principles.

- As designated public forums for student expression, the editorial board of these publications will determine the content, including all unsigned editorials. The views stated in editorials represent that of a majority of the editorial board, consisting of the top student editors of each staff.
- Signed columns or reviews represent only the opinion of the individual authors. Because the content of the student publications reflects only the views of the student staff and not school officials, the school district will not assume legal and financial responsibility for published material.
- Student publications of the Canton City School District will not publish any material that is libelous, obscene, materially disruptive of the school process, an unwarranted invasion of privacy or a violation of copyright.
(Specific definitions for the above instances of unprotected speech can be found in Law of the Student Press published by the Student Press Law Center.) – See Regulations
- Student publications of the Canton City School District may accept letters to the editor, guest columns and news releases from faculty, administrators, community residents, students and the general public. Each publication will establish and publish its own requirements regarding publication of outside material.
- The editorial board of each publication will reserve the right to withhold a letter or

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column and return it for resubmission. The editorial board may also reject letters and columns as determined by the editorial board members. Letters will be verified for authenticity.

- Student journalists may use online media to report news and information, to communicate with other students and individuals, to ask questions of and consult with experts and to gather material to meet their newsgathering and research needs.
- Student staff members will strive to correct any error before publication; however, if the editorial board determines a significant error is printed, a formal correction will appear in the following issue.
- A publication's staff will strive to report all issues in a legal, objective, accurate and ethical manner, according to the Canons of Professional Journalism developed by the Society for Professional Journalists. The Canons of Professional Journalism include a code of ethics concerning accuracy, responsibility, integrity, conflict of interest, impartiality, fair play, freedom of the press, independence, sensationalism, personal privacy, obstruction of justice, credibility and advertising.
- A publication's editorial board reserves the right to accept or reject any ad in print or on the Web.
- Electronic manipulations changing the essential truth of the photo or illustration will be clearly labeled if used.

Role of the Advisor

Although the adviser of each student publication has the authority to review a student publication, the adviser will not act as a censor or determine the content of the paper. The adviser will offer advice and instruction, following the code of ethics set forth for advisers by the Journalism Education Association.

When a vacancy occurs in the position of student publication adviser and/or journalism teacher, the Superintendent and/or designee will convene a search committee to recruit, interview, test and recommend candidates to the Board of Education. Given the educational relevance of this position and the dangers inadequate journalism education and supervision can present, the proper due diligence will be applied by the Superintendent and/or designee in the hiring of these positions.

As the adviser's position requires experience, maturity and skill, a certified journalism teacher with three years of teaching experience will be preferred.

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