

Lee Middle School
Multimedia Projects
2007-2008 Course Syllabus

M. Jackson, Instructor
Phone: (662) 630-3661

E-mail: jacksonm@columbus.k12.ms.us
Class Website: <http://www.columbuscityschools.org/lee/WLMS.htm>

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students hands-on training using audio and video creation equipment (camcorders, digital cameras, scanners, and digital audio). Techniques learned in this class will be utilized to produce the W-LMS Student News Program.

Course Goals/Objectives:

1. **The W-LMS Newscast:** Students will define the role of the W-LMS Newscast.
 - a. Students will identify the functions of W-LMS.
 - b. Students will recognize the most effective ways to report activities and events of Lee Middle School.
 - c. Students will recognize the importance of audience expectations.
2. **Teamwork:** Students will understand, practice, and learn skills for effective leadership at all levels of an organization.
 - a. Students will recognize the value of self knowledge, awareness and clear communication in effective leadership.
 - b. Students will recognize the value of consistency, goal setting and feedback in effective leadership.
 - c. Students will recognize the value of a positive, open-minded attitude in effective leadership.
3. **Responsibility:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for applying ethical and legal considerations to planning, storytelling and production.
 - a. Students will identify the rights and responsibilities (fairness, accuracy and good taste) provided by the First Amendment and scholastic-specific court decisions.
 - b. Students will recognize libel as a type of unprotected speech and how to avoid it.
4. **Brainstorming:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for generating ideas.
 - a. Students will recognize the value of collective brainstorming to develop a complete set of ideas for all aspects of the W-LMS Newscast.
 - b. Students will identify and apply the steps in the brainstorming process.
 - c. Students will identify specific brainstorming techniques and strategies.
5. **Content:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for developing content with verbal and visual elements.
 - a. Students will identify a variety of effective verbal formats for developing content.
 - b. Students will identify effective visual elements for developing content.
 - c. Students will identify effective strategies for making decisions about content.
6. **Reporting:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for reporting and interviewing.
 - a. Students will identify and master information-gathering skills, recognizing the importance of first person observation, conducting research and interviewing sources as vital techniques.
 - b. Students will identify options for researching background material and conducting original research for use as facts and figures in stories.
 - c. Students will recognize the guidelines for preparing questions and for interviewing sources as well as using interview information in stories.
7. **Writing:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for writing scripts and transcriptions.
 - a. Students will recognize the importance of notes in focusing and organizing a story.
 - b. Students will identify the variety of writing approaches for putting information in a human context including the quote-transition story and quick-read collections.
8. **Editing:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for improving writing.
 - a. Students will recognize the value of editor and writer working together during the entire process of writing a story.
 - b. Students will recognize the importance of accuracy in establishing credibility in the yearbook.
 - c. Students will recognize the importance of editing for style and establishing consistency.

9. **Photography 1:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills for planning, shooting and editing photographs.
 - a. Students will recognize the different types of camera equipment and film options.
 - b. Students will identify planning and organizational strategies to guarantee complete coverage, strong content and organized production.
 - c. Students will identify skills important to photo editing.
10. **Photography 2:** Students will understand, practice and learn skills essential in photojournalism.
 - a. Students will recognize strategies for incorporating photographs into the yearbook for the strongest storytelling effect.
 - b. Students will identify strategies used in photocomposition.
 - c. Students will identify factors that contribute to the technical quality of photographs.
11. **Studio Equipment Operations:** Students will understand, practice and learn how to properly operate the studio that is available in the TV studio.
 - a. Students will learn basic camera operations for recording and reporting.
 - b. Students will learn how to set-up correct lighting in the TV studio.
 - c. Students will learn how to operate the lapel microphone for studio and field operations.

Class Expectations:

1. Students will report to class (Library Reference room or Chorus Room) before the tardy bell rings.
2. Students will come to class with all class materials and assignments complete.
3. Students will actively participate in all areas of class discussion and group work activities.
4. Students will ask permission before using or checking out any computer, video, or photography equipment.
5. Students will not drink, eat food, candy, or chew gum during class time.
6. Students will show respect to teacher and class mates at all times.
7. Students will conduct themselves properly while conducting W-LMS business outside of the classroom.
8. Students will use the computers following the *CMSD Internet Usage Policy*.

Note on Expectation #3:

Students are expected to be on task at all times. Students found to be wasting class time by engaging in horseplay and non-lesson related talk will be given a demerit and repeated violation of this will result in the student being dismissed from the class.

Note on Expectation #7:

There will be times when the students will be required to go into other classrooms and attend after-school activities and sporting events. Students who misbehave or act inappropriately will be dismissed from the class.

Use of Equipment:

Students will be trained how to properly handle and operate all equipment that will be used to produce the yearbook which includes the following:

- Digital Cameras, Laptop Computers, MAC Computers, Photo Scanner, and Video Equipment

Students who damage or lose any equipment will be responsible for paying the cost of having the equipment repaired or replaced.

Group Assignments:

All students will be assigned to groups in which they are responsible for creating segments for inclusion on the W-LMS weekly newscast.

Groups:

1. Announcements
2. Birthday Bunch
3. Sports
4. Question/Trivia of the Day
5. Thought for the Day/Top 10 List
6. Technical Crew
7. Activity Highlights Segment

8. Today In History
9. Team/Class of the Week

Grading:

Students Nine Weeks grade will be comprised of the following:

Class Participation (25%) (Daily Grade)

This grade is given on a weekly basis; each student start the week off with 100 points/20 points per day. Students who do not participate in class will have 20 points deducted from their grade for the week.

Individual Assignments (25%) (Test Grade)

Students will be given individual writing or project assignments which will be worth a total of 100 points and counts as a Test Grade.

Group Participation/Assignments (25%)

Student will be graded based on teacher observation and peer evaluation of how well student contributed to completion of group assignments, projects, and discussions.

Portfolio (25%) (Nine-Week Test Grade) (200 points Total)

Students will maintain a portfolio of all class notes, scripts, pre-writes, and brainstorming which will be graded at the end of each nine weeks; the student can receive a maximum of 200 points.