

Tokyo International Progressive School

Journalism Course Outline

2026-2027

Ms. Aki Takeuchi - Room 22



COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this Journalism course, students will be proactive and dedicated members of a team to produce the school newspaper, *The Wolverine*. Students will be guided by the teacher through the fundamental steps of journalism and of running a school paper, but much of the decision-making and publishing processes will be conducted by the students. This year, *The Wolverine* is scheduled to be published once every three weeks and aims to cover a comprehensive range of topics that reflect the students' interests. Many of the interviewing, writing, and editing skills acquired during this course will be helpful to students in other areas of their studies.

GENERAL STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

For every lesson, students are required to bring their water bottles, headphones/earphones, and charged laptops. When in use, laptops must be on the desk and visible to the teacher. Students are responsible for submitting their articles on time, as well as assisting with printing, stapling, and distributing the school paper when requested by the teacher. Only students with explicit permission may use mobile devices to take photographs, and they must wear a Wolverine badge while doing so. This privilege can be revoked at any time if a student is not adhering to the Journalism expectations or the school's Mobile Phone Policy. As this class involves producing a newspaper as a team, deadlines will be strictly adhered to. The "Late Work Policy" section on the following pages will outline the specific consequences for missing deadlines. Students are expected to actively engage in the group decision-making process so that the product is one all members can be proud to have contributed to.

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Students' grades will be determined on the 6Ps every lesson, on a score out of 10. Although they are not graded on the quality of their final product (i.e., the features they write for the paper), they should be aware that failing to use class time effectively will be reflected in their 6P grades, particularly in the "productive" portion.

The 6P criteria are as follows:

<i>Positive/Pleasant/Polite</i>
1. Do I speak positively about myself and others while helping others to be successful academically and socially? 2. Do I use good manners by raising my hand silently when I have a question or comment? 3. Do I always respond positively to adult requests? 4. Am I an understanding and courteous listener who considers the point of view of others? 5. Do I treat the environment in respectful and gentle ways?
<i>Prepared/Punctual/Productive</i>
6. Do I bring all required materials to class, including any preparatory work? 7. Am I on time for class and ready to begin work at the bell? 8. Do I participate fully, asking for help when needed with a growth mindset? 9. Do I use my laptop on my desk responsibly, following teacher instruction? 10. Do I take care of my own health so I am fully engaged in learning?

This will be converted into the TIPS/UNHS grading scale:

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Mark Range</i>
A+	98 - 100
A	93 - 97
B+	90 - 92
B	85 - 89
C+	82 - 84
C	77 - 81
D+	74 - 76
D	70 - 73
F	69 or below

IMPORTANT DATES *(subject to minor changes throughout the school year)*

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Draft Due Date</i>	<i>Printing Date</i>
Issue #01	Thursday, September 3, 2026	Thursday, September 10, 2026
Issue #02	Monday, September 21, 2026	Monday, September 28, 2026
Issue #03	Monday, October 12, 2026	Thursday, October 22, 2026
Issue #04	Thursday, November 5, 2026	Thursday, November 12, 2026
Issue #05	Thursday, November 26, 2026	Thursday, December 3, 2026
Issue #06	Thursday, January 7, 2027	Thursday, January 14, 2027
Issue #07	Thursday, January 28, 2027	Thursday, February 4, 2027
Issue #08	Thursday, February 18, 2027	Thursday, February 25, 2027
Issue #09	Thursday, March 25, 2027	Thursday, April 1, 2027
Issue #10	Thursday, April 15, 2027	Thursday, April 22, 2027
Issue #11	Thursday, May 6, 2027	Thursday, May 13, 2027
Issue #12	Thursday, May 27, 2027	Thursday, June 3, 2027

Students across both sections (Monday and Thursday) will work together on one cohesive end product. Any changes made to this schedule will be communicated in person, on Google Classroom, and the publication schedule poster displayed outside Room 22.

LATE WORK POLICY

Most deadlines are set to Thursday, regardless of whether the student is in the Monday or Thursday section of the Wolverine. If a student feels that they need an extension for the current issue, it must be discussed with one of the teachers by the Monday of the deadline week. Late work that is submitted without discussion will result in deductions from the 6P grades. If the work is submitted more than a week late (i.e., after the printing day), the student will receive a zero and miss the chance to have their work included in the issue.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarism—e.g., claiming ownership of articles written by an external source, another student, or AI—is not tolerated. All work must be completed within the assigned Google Document files to show authenticity. If there is any doubt that the work was written by the student, they may be asked to rewrite the article, with or without an extension at the teacher's discretion.

Consequences will follow the school handbook, and the student may earn a zero for that issue.