February 27, 2020

Ms. Alexa Gagosz

Via MuckRock.com

Dear Alexa:

Toby N. Romer

Assistant Superintendent

Secondary Education and Special Projects

We are in receipt of your February 20, 2020 Public Records Request. We have no curriculum called ‘media literacy” and the Journalism courses offered at the two high schools are electives, which are not part of the standard curriculum. Furthermore, there is no “standard” curriculum used in these electives. Therefore, we have no documents responsive to your request.

I have however, provided you with a link to our web page, “Library Media Services” [here](https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=149) and with descriptions of our Journalism courses below which I believe may cover what you are looking for.

***Newton North High School***

*165* ***Journalism*** *no level 9, 10, 11, 12 F or S 4 blocks 2.5 credits*

*If you are interested in how a newspaper works; if you want to make your writing more concise, accurate, and appealing; and especially if you are interested in working on the Newtonite, take Journalism. As you write and analyze news stories, sports stories, features, and editorials, you will learn to write for different audiences. Exercises in research, reporting, interviewing, writing, copyediting, and layout will teach you about the process of putting newspapers together. Students can expect to write several short pieces a week—in class and at home. Readings and discussions focus on practical and ethical problems of news-gathering.*

*167* ***Advanced Journalism****:*

*Newtonite Management and Editorial Board no level 10, 11, 12 F H block 2.5 credits*

*168* ***Advanced Journalism****:*

*Newtonite Management and Editorial Board no level 9, 10, 11 S H block 2.5 credits*

*Prerequisite: Students must complete Journalism prior to completing an application for an editorial position on the Newtonite.*

*Students develop their journalistic skills as they work to produce this school’s award-winning newspaper and website. Through assigning, writing, and editing articles, shooting and editing photographs, designing and laying out pages, and acquiring and maintaining advertising accounts, Newtonite editors and managers complete independent projects for course credit each semester. They advance their understanding of producing a publication through their projects, as well as through ongoing discussions, challenges, and critiques regarding the website and print editions.*

*All Newtonite editors and managers are required to enroll in this course. Editors are required to be enrolled for four blocks each week. Students unable to meet the four block requirement may appeal to the English*

*department head or designee to earn their 2.5 credits by registering for a minimum of two blocks and completing required assignments during other agreed upon time periods (i.e. X-block).*

***Newton South High School***

*261* ***Introduction to Publications***

*Periods per week: 2 Full year Credits: 2.5 No Level*

*Intro to Publications will provide students with the basic writing, reporting, editing, and design skills they will need to work on the school newspapers, the yearbook, and the literary magazine Students will learn the basics of journalism ethics, the First Amendment, and will write features, news, sports, and opinions pieces. The course introduces principles of design, photojournalism, and online reporting.*

*263* ***Publications******in Practice***

*Periods per week: 2 Full year Credits: 2.5 No level*

*Publications in Practice is designed for editors of Regulus, Denebola, Leo, and The Lion’s Roar to work on writing, editing, and creating their respective publications Students with leadership roles on any South publication are strongly encouraged to enroll One goal of the course is to increase collaboration among editors on all South publications in order to foster sharing of content, photos, graphics, and design ideas.*

This completes NPS’s response. In accordance with the state regulations pertaining to public records, you have the right to appeal the response to your request for records to the Supervisor of Public Records pursuant to 950 CMR 32.08.

Sincerely,



Toby N. Romer

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

& Special Programs

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