

ho we are...

Spokesman has been publishing Wheeling High School student news for 46 years, since the school opened in 1964. We publish a 12-page newspaper monthly and maintain a news web site at www.wheelingspokesman.com with updates several times a week. Spokesman staff members write, photograph, design, produce and edit both of the publications. Students make all content, design, editing and publishing decisions for both publications.

All Spokesman staffers take the Journalistic Writing course sequence (JW3 - 8 depending on the student's experience in the program). The class meets once a day in a 45-minute skinny. We also meet about weekly after school on Tuesdays for short meetings or to complete the publication. Attendance at Pasteup and Layout (deadline days) is required. Many Spokesman staffers are involved in other activities, and Spokesman editors and the adviser work with those students to accommodate their individual schedules.

Members of the Spokesman staff have several opportunities throughout their time on staff to travel and attend journalism conferences and conventions. In the past, we have gone to the University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the College of DuPage for local journalism conferences. We have also traveled to Washington, D.C, St. Louis, Boston, and other major cities for the National Scholastic Journalism Conventions in the fall.

Spokesman is an award-winning publica-

tion with award-winning staff members. The publication won the prestigious NSPA Pace-maker award in 2003-04, the Pulitzer Prize of scholastic journalism. The publication also consistently earns the highest ratings and awards from the National Scholastic Press Association, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, the Kettle Moraine Press Association, the Northern Illinois School Press Association, and other top journalistic groups. Staff members have won top awards for their stories, photographs and designs through these same groups. In addition to these awards, Spokesman staffers also compete in the IHSA Journalism Competition on a team with yearbook staff members. Spokesman staff boasts several State award winners including a State Champion in Sports Writing.

hat life is like on staff...

Life as a staffer (reporter, photographer, blogger)

Staffers are responsible mostly for the content of the publication. They interview sources; do background reporting; go to events, games and performances to take notes; write stories and take pictures. Every staffer develops story ideas, helps edit stories and pages, and helps on Pasteup Night. The majority of your grade comes from interviews, observations, stories, photos, multimedia projects and graphics that you create for both publications. This position requires some out of class work. Most of this job can be done before Pasteup night, meaning that a staffer rarely has to stay late at Pasteup.

Life as an editor (News Editor, Multimedia Editor, etc.)

Editors are responsible for creating content for the publication, but more importantly, they are responsible for organizing, editing and producing their sections. For instance, the News editor might write a sports story and a news story one month, but he or she is mainly responsible for deciding which news stories the staff will cover, working with the staffers covering news events and topics, editing all news stories and graphics, designing and producing the news pages, and working with the Online Managing Editor to coordinate news coverage in both publications. Editors need to be good communicators and organizers. The majority of the editor's grade comes from production of the pages for print, although there is a significant portion of the grade that comes from content production as well. They stay at Pasteup until their sections are complete.

Life as an EIC (or Online Managing Editor)

The Editor-in-chief oversees all Spokesman production - from story ideas to publishing in print and online. The EIC writes stories, takes pictures, designs pages, produces multimedia projects, and other content production as needed or desired. Most importantly, the EIC organizes story/project ideas, makes all content decisions, edits all content, works with the section editors on quality control, motivates staff, and works with the adviser to make sure Spokesman publishes at a high standard. The EIC and OME need to be good communicators, organizers, leaders and decision-makers. The majority of the EIC and OME's grades come from organizing and editing the content of the publications, although there is a significant portion of the grade that

comes from content production as well. They stay at Pasteup until the publication is complete, which could be as late as 9 or 10 p.m.

Grades

Spokesman staffers are graded on the content they produce as well as earning Weekly Points. Each week, staffers turn in a report of the work they completed. Each job that they do earns points toward the weekly point grade. For instance, completing an interview earns a staffer 50 points. Going on a photo shoot and taking notes can earn a staffer up to 75 points.

Each term, each staffer must complete three benchmark projects. These projects are related to, and usually are, the content staffers produce for the print and online editions.

In addition to content and production grades, there are also grades for reflection. Each staffer must mark-up (or edit) each print publication. Each staffer is also required to complete a journal once a month about our publications.

How to join...

The application for Spokesman staff is online at www.wheelingspokesman.com/join-spokesman-staff/. Once all applications are in (and the deadline has past), Karen Barrett, Spokesman adviser, and the graduating senior staff evaluate the applications. Mrs. Barrett and the graduating seniors may hold interviews for positions if there are several applicants for the position. They evaluate applicants based on the application, prior journalistic experience, prior performance in

journalistic courses, and occasionally input from other WHS staff members.

Mrs. Barrett then makes the final decisions about staff positions after the graduating seniors make their recommendations. The graduating editor(s)-in-chief announce the new staff positions at Publications Recognition Night. This year, PRN is TBA. See Mrs. Barrett for more information about PRN.

What staffers love about Spokesman...

"Being on Spokesman is more than just writing stories; the friendships you make and the fun moments you have are PRICELESS!"

"Getting to be behind the scenes while the paper is being made."

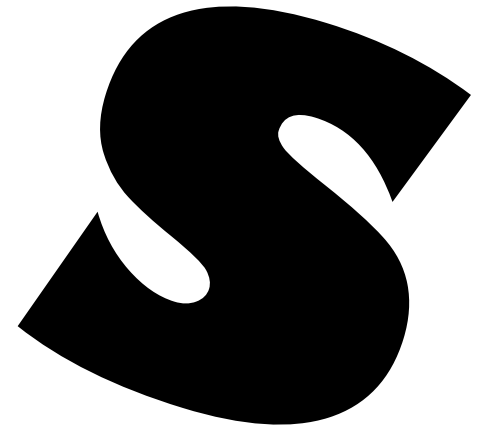
"I've made many friends because of the interviews I've done. It's really changing listening to people's stories."

"Our family dinners during Pasteup"

"Everyone is like a big crazy family!"

"Forming new friendships, having fun, and meeting new people."

"Just about everything is funny after staring at a computer for a few hours."



Application Information for 2011-2012 Spokesman Staff

This brochure offers an overview of Spokesman production and how to be a part of Spokesman Staff

The actual application is online at www.wheelingspokesman.com/join-spokesman-staff/

Application Deadline April 29

- Talk to the people who have had positions this year that you are interested in.
- Fill out all parts of the application.
- Be thorough. Do not assume Mrs. Barrett will already know all you want her to know about why you are the best candidate for each position.
- Punctuality counts.