

Journalism Academy - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are academy courses open to ninth grade students?
Absolutely, students in grade nine may take Video Production, Journalism 1, Yearbook, Creative Writing and Radio Production.
2. Can IB students take academy courses?
Yes. Although these students have fewer openings for electives, academy teachers at Rockville HS have a long history of being creative and flexible when it comes to scheduling. We will make it work for interested IB students.
3. Are there any prerequisites for academy courses?
No. Other than taking a "1" course before a "2" course, there are no prerequisites. Many of our students take several different academy courses before they graduate. This is one of the core principles of the academy. We believe that students should be able to explore their interest areas without any barriers. We also understand that these interest areas may change.
4. Can you describe the typical academy student?
Great Question! This is another source of pride for academy teachers. There is NO TYPICAL student. We have IB students, student-athletes, musicians, computer experts, artists, poets, and photographers. Some of our students are involved in SGA or another club, while others devote all of their time to the academy. Some students go to highly selective colleges while others skip college altogether and go right into the military or the world of work.
5. What if the student has no interest in writing? Or is not a proficient writer?
The world of journalism has undergone significant changes over the last decade. It is shifting away from the once-traditional print environment to one that is media-rich. This means that journalism organizations need staff with a wide range of skills, such as graphic designers, photographers, Photoshop workers, social media experts, video camera operators and editors and leaders who can bring these diverse elements together. As you can see, the skill set is wide. It is important to note that successful participation in the academy prepares students for success on whatever path they choose after high school. Although some of our students have continued their study of journalism into college and even into a career, most do not. However, these students are very well prepared for a fast-paced world where communication and technology skills are keys to success.