

## Raising the Standard

### Newspaper staff overcomes new challenges

As students thumbed through the latest issue of *The Standard* during their advisory, journalists in room 118 began preparations for the next edition. But with a smaller class, newspaper adviser Rachel Chushuk said recruitment was a necessity to maintain the organization.

“Our numbers weren’t great at the beginning of the year. We had nine students enroll, eight of them were seniors,” Chushuk said. “We made a push to recruit, though, and we now have 15, with six underclassmen who will hopefully make sure the Southwest newspaper stays alive.”

Chushuk was a part of her own newspaper staff through high school and college and said students learn valuable skills through journalism.

“The majority of my students do not go into journalism-related fields,” Chushuk said. “But they learn the valuable skills of how to work with others, how to meet deadlines and how to communicate through interviewing, photography and design.”

Editor-in-chief of the newspaper, senior Emma Olinger said she came into newspaper by chance when she was mistakenly placed in a 21st Century Journalism course instead of Advanced Acting.

“[Joining] was the best decision I’ve ever made in high school,” Olinger said. “[Newspaper] is a great opportunity to learn leadership skills, and I think that's one of the most iconic things about the newspaper.”

Copy editor senior Elianna Oliver said if enrollment is still an issue in the future, the newspaper could be threatened.

“If we don't get more people [in newspaper], the newspaper won't be able to be a class, because there won't be enough people for it,” Oliver said. “We have social media, and we have a yearbook—which is a great way to cover [events]—but we still need a source of coverage in our school that's bi-monthly.”

Oliver said students learn academic and social skills through the newspaper, since journalists must write about various topics and communicate with others through interviewing. Overall, Oliver described the class as “a good community of people.”

“I think [newspaper is] a good way to find friends that are going to have your back, listen to you and respect your opinion,” Oliver said. “So if you want close-knit relationships — that you might not find if you're not in sports or clubs or anything — I think newspaper is the perfect class for that.”