

PUBLICATIONS

While serving to instruct students in the basic skills of responsible journalism, official school publications shall be free to provide thoughtful, relevant commentaries on all topics and shall be limited only as allowed by Education Code 48907, 48950, and other applicable state and federal laws in order to maintain an orderly school environment.

Students are prohibited from making any expressions or distributing or posting electronically or otherwise any materials that are obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Students also are prohibited from making any expressions that so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of school rules, or substantial disruption of the school's orderly operation. (Education Code 48907)

Student editors in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, and writing classes shall assign and edit the news, editorial, and feature content of their publications. Faculty advisors shall help the student editors who will ultimately judge the literary value, newsworthiness, and propriety of materials submitted for publication. All journalistic writing should be substantiated with commentary and supporting evidence. As space permits, editorial pages shall be open to any individuals wishing to express their ideas or to rebut editorials in a letter. School newspapers shall print a fair selection and representation of the letters they receive.

Students and staff may contribute various types of pieces. These may include the following:

1. Editorials, which are newspaper articles written by or on behalf of an editorial staff that expresses a view on a topical issue. These editorials should only be written when they represent a clear, vast majority of the editorial staff and are not bylined.
2. Opinion pieces, which are articles in which the writer expresses their personal opinion about a particular issue or item of news. Opinion pieces should be bylined.
3. News, which reports on timely topics or events and outlines the who, what, why, when, and where of a given topic or event.
4. Features, which are newspaper articles devoted to the treatment of a particular subject, typically at length.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student publications in order to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to assure that their content complies with the provisions of Board policy. The advisors and/or principal shall exercise no prior restraint of prepared material except as provided in Education Code 48907 for that which is obscene, libelous, slanderous, or incites students to commit unlawful acts, violates school rules, or disrupts school operations.

Publications of the District shall not contain any advertisement of controlled substances, tobacco, alcoholic beverage, other drugs, or devices used for consumption. Publications shall not contain advertisement of activities in which it is illegal for students to participate.

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

School Bulletin Board and Announcements

Bulletin board space shall be provided in each school for the use of students and student organizations.

Identification shall be required on any posted notice of the student or student group issuing the notice.

Posted notices or other communications shall be officially dated before posting and shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.

All student clubs or groups shall have equal access to the school media to announce meetings, including the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school web site. However, the principal or designee may issue a disclaimer that such activities are not school-sponsored.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48907 Student exercise of free expression

Policy

adopted: February 8, 1999

revised: December 12, 2018

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Juan Capistrano, California