Montford Middle School 2016-2017 Yearbook Elective Application

Dear student and parents:

Thank you for your interest in the Montford Yearbook Elective. Please carefully read all of the application materials and the elective brochure to determine whether you believe you are a good candidate for the class.

The Yearbook Elective at MMS is a unique class which provides instruction for students in a variety of areas of publication including journalistic writing, photography, digital design, and marketing. Students are responsible for every element of the creation of the school's yearbook, from theme development to design to marketing and distribution.

Students interested in applying for the elective must be willing to meet the following criteria:
   --Make the Yearbook Elective a priority next year
   --Work independently to complete assigned elements of the yearbook
   --Behave maturely and independently
   --Work outside of class (before/after school and at home) when needed
   --Follow through on responsibilities and meet deadlines without constant prompting and reminders
   --Write articles and captions using mature language and following guidelines provided by yearbook curriculum
   --Be willing and able to take photographs at school events
   --Interview students, faculty, administrators, and staff members for stories
   --Develop and follow through on marketing ideas for the yearbook and 8th grade ads

It is essential that the application materials:
   --Include completed student information and signatures;
   --Demonstrate student's exceptional writing skills in the photo/caption activity and writing sample; and
   --Are turned in before or on the due date.

Due to its popularity, not all students who apply for the Yearbook Elective are selected for the class. To ensure fairness, the selection process is blind: applications are assigned a number, and the students' responses and captions are assessed using a detailed rubric. Students whose applications receive the highest scores are invited to join the class. Notification will be made as soon as possible.

The Montford Yearbook Elective: an experience providing students with skills and memories that will last a lifetime.

Be sure to complete all portions of this application, and turn it in by Friday April 15, 2016. _Students whose applications are incomplete or are turned in after Friday April 15, 2016, will not be considered for the class_. If you have any questions about the Yearbook Elective, please contact adviser Beth Dietzen at dietzenb@leonschools.net or 922-6011.

Student's name _____ Current grade in school _____

Language arts teacher _____

Extracurricular activities_____

Parent name(s)_____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____ Other _____

Parent email address(es) _____

The yearbook publisher will be hosting a summer workshop at which students will learn about all aspects of yearbook publication and will work as a team for the first time. It is at this event that the group will begin preliminary work on the _2017 Mustang Yearbook_, develop the theme, brainstorm about story ideas, receive training in page design and photography, and will create a marketing plan. Dates for the workshop have not yet been released. While attendance is not mandatory, it is a formative part of the group working as a team, which is vital to the success of the yearbook program. You will be contacted with more information as soon as it is available.

I have read and understand the responsibilities of the 2017 Yearbook Elective.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature_____ Date _____

Writing Samples   Name _____

Please respond thoughtfully and thoroughly to the following items.
   --You may write or type your responses on a separate piece of paper and staple it to your application, if preferred.
   --Write in complete sentences.
   --Edit and proofread your writing carefully.

1. What about your character would you consider your greatest strengths?
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. What about your character would you consider a weakness or something you would like improve on?
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. Tell about something (or things) that you have done in and/or out of school that demonstrates that you are an interested, motivated student who is willing to take on a challenge.
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

4. Why are you are applying for the Yearbook Elective?
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

5. What makes you uniquely qualified to fill the position?
   _____
. _____
   _____
   _____

6. Each year, the yearbook must have a unique design and must include unique stories. Tell one idea for an original design element or unique feature story for the *2017 Mustang Yearbook*.
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

7. Each year, the staff is responsible for selling 600 yearbooks. Share an idea you have for helping sell yearbooks.
   _____
   _____
   _____

A. About captions.

1. <u>What is a caption?</u> A caption is a piece of writing that accompanies a photo or illustration. Yearbook captions are the most read parts of the book. Therefore, they must be well-written, interesting, and detailed.

2. <u>Hints about writing captions.</u>
   --Captions are written in complete sentences that are engaging and descriptive.
   --The names of individuals in the pictures should be included in captions.
   --A caption should reveal *more than* just what is in the picture. It is obvious that number 12 is holding the football. What's really going on?
   --The writing should be in <u>third person</u>.
   --<u>Do not</u> begin captions with the words "this" or "here".
   --Good captions are more than one sentence long.
   --One way to create interest in a caption is to include a quote from one of the people featured in the picture.

3. <u>Examples</u>. Still not sure how a caption is written? Take a look at magazines, newspapers, textbooks, and other publications that feature photographs to see how the pros write them.

B. The assignment. After reviewing the information above, write captions for each of the pictures below.
1. Write the captions as if the events occurred at Montford and involved MMS students.
2. Make up names, quotes, and other information as appropriate.
3. Edit and proofread your work carefully for errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and word choice.
4. You may write or type your captions on a separate piece of paper if you prefer.

Photo 1

Photo 2