



STAFF POLICIES

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

JNN Student Media is the official and independent student social media and broadcast program of Joseph Gregori High School. The purpose of JNN is to factually inform and entertain its viewers and social media followers. As an established open forum for the student body, the pursuit of truth will be the staff's number one priority.

It is the responsibility of each JNN staff member to adhere to the [Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics](#) that states, among other things, that a journalist must seek truth and provide a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues and always practice ethical and professional behavior to maintain credibility of our broadcast program.

It is the policy of JNN that student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of the student broadcast. Accordingly, the following guidelines relate only to establishing grounds for publication.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES & REPORTING PRACTICES OF STUDENT JOURNALISTS

Student broadcast program staff members determine the content of the publication and are responsible for that content. These students should:

1. Determine the content of the student broadcast
2. Strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity, and fairness
3. Strive to maintain high standards in producing media that is visually and audibly appealing
4. Review material to improve the written scripts and spoken delivery of all stories and spoken reports

III. Adviser Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the JNN adviser to supervise the production of the school-sponsored broadcast and maintain the provisions of the staff policies. This shall not be construed to prevent an adviser from teaching professional standards of broadcast media and journalism to the student staff.

No person who advises a student publication in California will be fired, transferred or removed from advisership by his or her refusal to exercise editorial control over student media or to otherwise suppress the protected free speech expression right of student journalists. The JNN adviser is not a censor.

IV. PRIOR RESTRAINT

In California, no public school student media, whether school sponsored or official, will be reviewed by school administrators prior to publication. The school assumes no responsibility for the content of any student publication, and urges all students to recognize that with editorial control comes responsibility, including the responsibility to follow professional journalism standards each school year.

No expression made by students in the exercise of free speech or free press rights shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy, and no school officials or school district shall be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by students unless school officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student expression.

V. PUBLICATION POLICY

The purpose of JNN is to factually inform and entertain its viewers and social media followers. As an established open forum for the student body, the pursuit of truth will be the staff's number one priority.

The Editorial Board, comprised of the Producer, Social Media Manager, and Sports Producer will determine the priority of the stories, media to be published and overall design of the program. The adviser serves to give students a better understanding of the functions of production, reporting and the ethics of a free press.

Students are free to express an opinion on matters of public interest under the "fair comment rule." Under this rule, the student has the right to intelligently criticize the school and its policies. In accordance with community standards, profanity will not appear or be heard in this publication unless such language provides necessary insight into the story.

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of at least two-thirds of the JNN staff. Opinion segments reflect the opinion of the speaker and do not represent the opinions of the faculty and administration at Gregori High. Controversial issues will be covered from both points of view. School news, as well as any local, national, or international events may also be covered.

This is your school. Through expressions of opinions, praises, and constructive criticism, you can bring about change.

VI. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The following types of student expression that will not be protected is media that:

1. is obscene to minors as defined by state law
2. is libelous or slanderous as defined by state law
3. constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy as defined by state law, or
4. so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. School officials must base a forecast of material and substantial disruption on specific facts, including past experience in the school and current events influencing student behavior, and not on undifferentiated fear or apprehension.
5. Any factual errors made by JNN will be corrected as quickly as possible.

VII. ADVERTISING POLICY

Advertising is constitutionally protected expression. JNN may accept advertising. Acceptance or rejection of advertising is within the purview of the JNN staff, which may accept any ads except those for products or services that promote illegal products, oppose specific religions, or use racial or sexist comments. No advertising that is copyright protected, libelous, or irresponsible, or that violates school or community standards of good taste will be accepted. Ads for political candidates and ballot issues may be accepted; however, publication staffs are encouraged to solicit ads from all sides of the issues.

All advertising accepted by the staff must meet the same guidelines as editorial content. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the school, the staff as a whole, or its individual members.

VIII. REPORTING PRACTICES

- ✓ Reporters will do whatever is necessary to get a story right, even if it means revising it more times than they want to, interviewing someone they do not know, or making phone calls in the evening or the weekend.
- ✓ Reporters should avoid interviewing or quoting their friends unless they are vital to the story. They should seek a variety of sources, including students from other grade levels, teachers, administrators and outside sources.
- ✓ Reporters should check and substantiate facts—especially vital ones—two times with two independent sources.
- ✓ Reporters will not falsify information, invent quotes, quote out of context, or deceive people in their purpose as a reporter.
- ✓ Reporters will strive to get all sides of an issue, no matter how difficult, even if the issue is controversial, even if they have to go off campus to fully cover a story.

IX. PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Photos and video with news value will not be altered electronically or through other means so as to misrepresent the actual event, persons, or setting.

X. GRAPHICS

Graphics used in stories, social media, or the full broadcast may be developed from staff artwork or original photos or video. Graphics downloaded from the internet must originate from one site: **motionarray.com**. JNN pays a licensing fee for the use of graphics, motion graphics, stock photography, and stock video.

XI. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Journalists must avoid conflicts of interest that may not allow them to be objective in their reporting. If a staff member is closely involved with a club, organization, team, or is directly involved in a news incident, it may be difficult for them to remain objective in his or her reporting. Another staff member should cover the story.