



SNO National Distinguished Site 2016
lhslance.org

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JOIN OUR JOURNALISM CLASS! EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

The Lance is Linganore High School's newspaper, active since the school's opening in 1962. Mrs. Natalie Rebetsky became advisor in the late 1980's, and, since that time, the newspaper, reflecting national trends in news reporting, has evolved from an 8-page paper, published monthly, designed by hand and printed locally, to Lancer Media, a newspaper with a multi-media presence, including a printed broadsheet, online newspaper, Twitter feed, Facebook presence, blogs, podcasts and occasional video. (Updated 1/2017)

Recent Highlights:

- ◆ Broadsheet published and distributed to lunch shifts every four weeks.
- ◆ Student Newspapers Online Distinguished Site 2016
- ◆ Annual trip Newseum, Washington, D.C., only U.S. museum devoted to journalism and the media.
- ◆ Twitter @lhsjournalism (Average of 27,000 impressions per month.)
- ◆ Livescribe pens for students to use for accurate interviews.
- ◆ Facebook page—LHS Lancer Media, Instagram--@lhsjournalism
- ◆ Annual awards ceremony for all local high schools sponsored by *The Frederick News Post*..
- ◆ Quill and Scroll Honor Society inductees each May.
- ◆ Podcasts featuring two students discussing music, arts, current events, etc. . .
- ◆ Countless graduates who go on to study journalism or related arts in college.
- ◆ Rusty Ray, LHS Distinguished Graduate, Television anchor, WBTW South Carolina
- ◆ Karen Loftus, LHS Distinguished Graduate, sports reporter WDBJ7 Roanoke, Virginia area

How Journalism Prepares You for the Future:

- ◆ University of Maryland has one of the top nationally ranked journalism programs
- ◆ Internships at local magazines and newspapers
- ◆ Blogging opportunities to explore specific areas of study
- ◆ Become a better writer: higher test scores and better essays in all classes
- ◆ Become a better thinker: Be aware of current events and your role as a world citizen

What skills do Journalism students learn?

- ◆ Effective communication skills: email and telephone etiquette.
- ◆ Writing Process: brainstorming, outlining, researching, organizing, drafting, editing, publishing
- ◆ Meeting deadlines
- ◆ Collaborative learning
- ◆ Current events and issues related to the community, citizenship
- ◆ Graphic arts and photography
- ◆ All writing is research based and in many forms: cause/effect, argument, analysis, news reporting, and critique.
- ◆ Students are ambassadors for LHS. They are held to high expectations for behavior and attendance.

From our Graduates—

“Lancer Media was always a way for me to stay connected with my classmates, especially ones I didn’t see every day. I got to see all the different projects and accomplishments that so many different people worked on. Also, when I worked on a project, participated in a school play, or played on a sports team, I got to see my hard work displayed in the newspaper and later on the video news. I enjoyed Lancer Media because it was a great place to find school spirit and pride in my fellow Lancers.”

Mandy Venable, Class of ‘09

Washington College, History/Education Major/FCPS Social Studies Teacher

“I’ve really only ever been good at two things: writing and asking questions. The journalism program at Linganore High School taught me I could make a career out of those two strengths and gave me the confidence to go for it. And I did. I was a reporter in television and print news for nearly a decade but when I needed a change a few years ago, I asked myself: “What am I good at?” The answer was still the same. Learning the right questions to ask and how to write concisely and compellingly are skills I’ve relied on and carried with me ever since I first started developing them in high school. I now work in public affairs and am good at my job because I have a strong writing background and learned from a very special teacher – a Mrs. Natalie Rebetsky– that being outspoken and inquisitive are qualities to celebrate, not squelch.”

Sara Gavin Drown, Class of 1998

Communications Coordinator, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, UMD

“In science, if you don’t publish your work, it’s like you never did the experiment in the first place. However, most of my colleagues can’t write or edit to save their lives. They’ve had excellent training in math and science but their communication skills are severely lacking. I’ve had quite a few publications and am often the one other people in the lab turn to for editing. I’ve had supervisors comment on how easy and fast it is to put together a manuscript with me because I can ‘tell the story’ and write well. I attribute much of that skill to the training I received while working on *The Lance*.”

Lindsey Garver Baldwin, Class of 1998

Postdoctoral Fellow at NIH

“Our paper encouraged student engagement on civic, political, and social issues. Student media empowered participants to practice collaboration, accountability, and research skills - all while conveying an image of the school the community. Students developed talents in areas of photography, graphic design, professional writing, business management, technology, and marketing, to name a few. And as an added perk, according to the NAA Foundation, ‘student journalists earn better high school grades, perform at higher levels on college entrance exams and receive higher grades in college writing and grammar courses than students who lack that experience.’”

Eric Olsen, Class of ‘04

MA, Arts Management, George Mason University

“After graduating from Linganore High School and *The Lance*, I attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Journalism. I spent the first 11 years of my career as a magazine editor at Hanley Wood, a Washington, D.C., trade publisher specializing in the construction industry. Over that time I was an assistant editor, an associate editor, a managing editor, and then a deputy editor, for magazines including Builder, Remodeling, and EcoHome. Last year I moved over to the PR agency side, still in the construction industry; I put my editorial experience to work every day writing and editing feature articles on behalf of clients, working with magazine writers, blogging, and freelancing for various shelter publications.

I never thought I’d be a B2B editor—as a student you always have dreams of flashy consumer pubs or the New York Times—but I love it. I love knowing an industry so well that I understand the needs of my readers and that people look to me for opinions. It’s very rewarding to feel like you’re truly being of service.

My time at *The Lance* and having you as a teacher started it all for me. I had always been a writer, but working on *The Lance* made me realize how much I truly loved it—particularly how suited my skills were to editing and proofreading. I don’t think I would have chosen the path that I did, a path that has made me so happy and taken me to some amazing places around the world, had I not signed up for that class so many years ago.”

Katy Tomasulo, Class of ‘95

PR & Social Media Manager, C Squared Advertising

“It’s hard to even imagine what my life would look like had I not walked into the Journalism class that I did more than six years ago. I can’t think of another academic experience that shaped my high school life more than my times working for *The Lance*. We didn’t really have great articles or intrepid reporting, but for the first time, I fell in love with the incredible craft of writing. I learned to ask questions and seek answers.

I grew up convinced that I would one day be an engineer or computer scientist. Why? Because of financial stability. Instead I went to school to study journalism. I learned that money isn’t everything. I found joy in writing and listening to people spill their life. I had more worthwhile experiences than most do in a lifetime - I covered the Winter Olympics, National Championships, visited the White House, saw true life and real tragedy. I met some of the most famous coaches of all-time, and had the privilege of telling stories of ordinary people living extraordinary lives.

Perhaps most importantly, I wouldn’t have met the two most influential teachers in my life. I wouldn’t be the person I am today.”

Christopher Eckerd, Class of ‘08

Senior Staff Writer for *The Diamondback*, University of Maryland, BA Journalism ‘12

Staff Associate with Young Life