

**Q**

- Students who work on high school newspapers and yearbook:

**A:**

- Get better grades in high school
- Earn higher scores on the ACT
- Get better grades as college freshman
- All of the above \*

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## High School Journalism Matters

\* NAA Foundations 2008 Research Study Shows a Positive Link Between High School Journalism and Academic Achievements For more information, see the next page.

# 2016-2017 Fentonian and InPrint Staff Application

more reasons to join...

## **JOURNALISM STUDENTS DO BETTER**

Students who work on a newspaper or yearbook staff in high school do better in high school and college than students with no journalism experience, according to a 2008 study. The study found:

- High school students who were members of a journalism staff had higher grade point averages in English, Social Studies, Math and Science than students who were not members of journalism staff.
- High school students who were members of a journalism staff scored in the 81st percentile in the English portion of the ACT test. High school students who were not members of a journalism staff scored in the 69th percentile.
- High school students who were members of a journalism staff reported that high school journalism classes developed their English skills better than any other course including English courses.
- High school students who were members of a journalism staff were more involved in extracurricular activities such as clubs, student government and were elected captain of a team more often than students who were not members of a journalism staff. They were also more likely to take an advanced English placement course and to volunteer in the community.
- College students who were members of a high school journalism staff had higher grade point averages in their first college English courses than students who were not members of a high school journalism staff.
- College students who were members of a high school journalism staff had higher overall grade point averages than students who were not members of a high school journalism staff.
- College students who were members of a high school journalism staff wrote better on the ACT COMP (College Outcome Measures Test) than students who were not members of a high school journalism staff.

- For more information on this study, visit: [www.naafoundation.org](http://www.naafoundation.org)

# Decisions, Decisions

## Which staff is right for me?

When completing the attached form, please do so with careful consideration. Advanced Publications and Advanced Journalism are full year courses that carry a full year commitment. If you are selected as a staff member, please keep in mind that you are doing more than “just enrolling in another class,” you are joining a team. The staff and the entire student body are relying on you to do your job and to complete every assignment to the best of your ability.

### Advanced Publications/Yearbook

Since 1980, the Fentonian staffs have worked to improve the quality and content of the publication. Their efforts are evident in the awards the book has received:

- 33 Spartan Awards (presented to the top yearbooks in the state by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association)
- Numerous regional and national awards, including five Silver Crowns and five Gold Crowns (which ranks the book among the top three percent of high school yearbooks in the nation's)
- Four Pacemaker Award (which is comparable to the Gold Crown)
- Induction into the MIPA Hall of Fame
- Induction into the National Scholastic Press Association High School Publication Hall of Fame

The commitment you are required to make to the class is not as overwhelming as it may seem. Staff members are given one month to complete a double page spread (two facing pages in the yearbook). This means that the staffer will write, edit, rewrite, type and fit the copy, help select pictures for the page, write the captions for those pictures and write the headline. In short, he/she will transform a blank piece of paper into the finished product you see in the book. This is ample time if the staffer utilizes the class period; however, some out of class time may be required to complete deadlines.

In order to complete deadlines, one evening per month will be designated as a “late night” work session. Each student must attend all these late nights. If a student is unable to make a “late night,” the work may be completed during SRT.

Because we must deliver pages to our printer on schedule, each staffer must meet his/her deadline, or his/her grade will suffer. Students and parents should keep in mind that a majority of this work will be completed on an “individual study” basis. While the student's editors and the adviser will give help and direction, it is up to each person to see that his/her work is completed. Students unable to work under these conditions should not enroll in the class.

Another commitment each staffer must make is selling ads. Hopefully, the campaign will begin in late June, and by the time school begins in the fall, each staffer should have met his/her ad sale requirement- approximately \$400. (For every

### Advanced Journalism/Newspaper/ Multimedia

During the last several years, the InPrint staff worked to improve the quality and content of the publication. Their efforts are evident in the many awards they have received, including:

- 19 Spartan Awards (presented to the top newspapers in the state by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association)
- Numerous regional and national awards, including two Gold Crowns and a Silver Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association
- Induction into the MIPA Hall of Fame

We plan to continue this quest for excellence in 2015-2016. The role you will be required to play in achieving this goal is not as overwhelming as may seem. Each month, calendars are established to guide the writers and the editors through the production process. Writers are typically responsible for one or two stories each issue.

Online edition of the InPrint runs on a different schedule. The web site is in charge of covering stories and topics that are time sensitive and therefore cannot be placed in the print edition because they will no longer be relevant by the time it is delivered to the school. Because of this, writers who contribute to the web site will operate on a rotation system in which groups write and finish stories in a shortened production schedule. These stories may not always be in the typical story form that is read. Special videos, photo slides, quizzes, and other forms of multimedia will also be posted here that have been created by staff members. All of these skills will be taught to first year members.

As you may be able to gather from this information, everyone is working on an “independent study” basis. Students who are not comfortable or prepared for this type of classroom situation should not enroll in the class. It is important to note, however, that the student editors and the adviser will be available to give instruction and guidance. because we must deliver pages to our printer on schedule, each staffer must meet his deadlines, or their grade will suffer.

Another commitment each staffer must make is selling ads. Each staffer will be required to sell a total of approximately \$35 in ads per issue. The ad sale grade accounts for 10 per-

\$100 a staff member earns in ad sales, he/she will receive \$10 off the price of a yearbook.) The ad sale grade accounts for 10 percent of the student's overall grade. The rationale behind this is two-fold: first, we are responsible for earning our \$60,000 publishing budget, and second, in all classes top grades represent outstanding work, going above and beyond, participating and succeeding in every facet of the class, and Advanced Publications is no exception.

We do not expect a new staffer to successfully complete these requirements without offering "basic training." The first few weeks of the class will be spent learning and reviewing the fundamentals of yearbook production. Topics of discussion will include theme selections, cover and end sheet design, content and coverage, photography and merchandising the yearbook. Days designated to selling ads will be reserved for the beginning of the year; however, it may be necessary to spend individual time outside of class to meet the \$400 goal. A brief training session in June session will proceed the ad sale drive.

The MIPA summer workshop at Michigan State University is recommended for those students who are accepted to the InPrint staff. The workshop costs approximately \$400. Materials will be available in rooms 5-109 as soon as they arrive. A fund-raising opportunity will be available in April/May.

The attached material includes a yearbook application and two teacher recommendation forms to be filled out by two teachers, one of whom must be a current or former English teacher. Please give the recommendation forms to teachers who can speak about your sense of responsibility and your academic ability. Ask them to return completed forms to me.

**Positions for next year's staff include:**

**Staff Positions** (usually for the first year members or returning member who are unable to make a big time commitment): Writer, Graphic Designer (work on computers designing ads), Business Staff (this is a positions for someone who is good with Excel and/or someone interested in marketing/PR/social media).

**Editorial Positions** (usually for second or third year members, these positions require a greater time commitment.): Editor-in-Chief, Business Manager, Underclassmen Editor, Clubs Editor, Student Life Editor, Academics Editor, Senior Editor, Sports Editor, Community Editor, Index Editor, Design Editor, Copy Editor.

cent of the student's overall grade. The rationale behind this is two-fold: first, we are responsible for earning our \$8,000 publishing budget, and second, in all classes a higher grade represents outstanding work, going above and beyond, participation and succeeding in every facet of the class, and Advanced Journalism is no exception. Every staffer who exceeds his/her ad sale grade goal by \$75 receives a free yearbook.

We do not expect a new staffer to successfully complete these requirements without offering some sort of "basic training." The first three to four weeks of class will be spent learning and reviewing the fundamentals of newspaper production. Areas of instruction will include lead writing, journalistic style, copy editing, straight news stories and advertising sales.

The MIPA summer workshop at Michigan State University is recommended for those students who are accepted to the InPrint staff. The workshop costs approximately \$400. Materials will be available in rooms 5-109 as soon as they arrive. A fund-raising opportunity will be available in April/May.

The attached material includes a newspaper application and recommendation sheets to be filled out by two teachers, one who of whom must be a current or former English teacher. Please give the recommendation forms to teachers who can speak about your sense of responsibility and your academic ability. Ask them to return completed forms to me.

**Positions for next years staff include:**

**Staff Positions** (usually for the first year members or returning members who are unable to make a big time commitment): Reporter, Graphic Artist (work with computers to generate advertisement designs for the newspaper, newsletters, etc...), Artist, Business Staff.

**Editorial Positions** (usually for second or third year members, these positions require a greater time commitment): Editor-in-Chief, Business Manager, News Editor, Sports Editor, Feature Editor, Opinion Editor, Arts Editor, Copy Editor, Design Editor, Online Editor.

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If you or your parent(s)/guardian(s) have any questions after reviewing the material, please feel free to contact me at school. My conference hour is 4A/4B (1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.). Typically the best way to contact me is via e-mail at [pbunka@fenton.k12.mi.us](mailto:pbunka@fenton.k12.mi.us), but you may phone me as well: 810-591-2968.

Applications are due Feb. 12 (Feb. 18 for middle school students), 2015. Please schedule an interview when you return your application materials.

Sincerely,

Pam Bunka, adviser

# 2015-2016 Staff Application Checklist

Applicants should return the following to Mrs. Bunka in room 5-109 by Feb. 12 (Feb. 18 for middle school students):

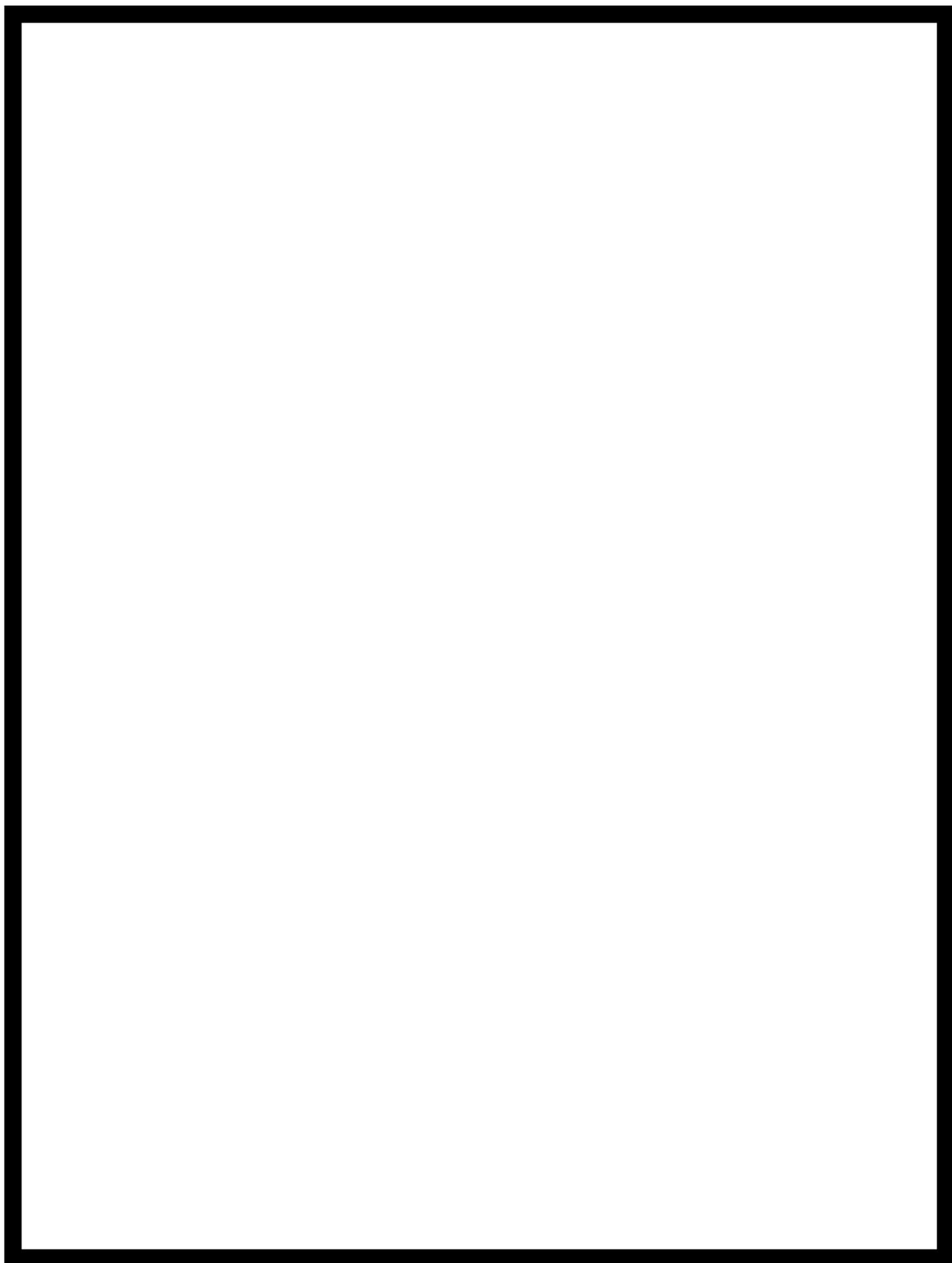
1. Completed application
2. *Writers only*: A piece of writing from your English class.  
*Business or Design Applicants Only*: Two to three examples of your work.

The two completed teacher recommendation forms will be submitted to Mrs. Bunka by your teachers. Everyone must have a recommendation from their English teacher. If you are applying for a business or design or photo position, the other recommendation should be from that subject area if possible.

Schedule an interview when you submit your application.

Interviews will be conducted during SRT on Feb. 17, 19, 23, 25, and 29. We interview AGS applicants on Feb. 19 during their lunch period and will make special arrangements to interview other incoming freshmen at their home schools.

Staff lists will be posted on March 1.



# 2016 Fenton Publication Staff Application

## 1. The Basics

Circle the staff you are applying for: Fentonian   InPrint   InPrint Online

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cellphone \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade 8 9 10 11 Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number \_\_\_\_\_ SRT Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Staff Position Desired (Circle one or more)

**Writer** - Most incoming members begin as a writer

**Artist** - For newspaper only. Must have art experience.

**Ad/Graphic Designer** - Must have knowledge of InDesign, Illustrator

**Business Staff** - must have knowledge of Excel

**Photographer** - **You must use photo staff application.**

## 3. List all the courses you plan to take next year:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. SRT

## 4. List all the activities you plan to be involved in next year:

(Include any after school work)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Teacher Recommendations

Please provide us with the names of the two teachers you gave your recommendation forms to. One form must be filled out by an English teacher (current or past).

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

List all previous English, art, business and desktop courses and your teachers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Individual Qualifications

A. As a member of the publication staff, you must relate to and work with other students in a group setting that demands extreme cooperation and team effort. Give an example of a time you demonstrated team effort.

B. Deadlines and individual initiative are the most important parts of a successful publication and will be major factors in the way you will be evaluated for your class grade. Provide an example that illustrates you are able to discipline yourself to work by planning ahead to meet deadlines.

C. We provide our own funding, so ad sales are essential for the publication's livelihood and selling will be a requirement for your grade. Will you be able to meet this commitment? What will you do to make sure this gets done?

D. I have read the application and requirements stated within and commit myself to them, should I be chosen for the staff.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Parent Response

A. Do you believe the extra hours are possible for your son/daughter?

B. Will you, or someone else, be able to provide transportation for your son/daughter during ad sales and/or late nights should it become necessary?

I have read the application and requirements stated within and will do my best to help my son/daughter fulfill them should he/she be chosen for the Fentonian/InPrint/Photography staff next year.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Fenton Publications

2015-2016 Staff Application

## STUDENT RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff (circle one): Fentonian InPrint  
Position (circle one): Writer Business Design

Dear Faculty Member: The student named above is applying for a position on the newspaper, yearbook or photo staff and has given your name as a reference. Please answer the following questions by rating the student using a number scale of 1-5, with 1 representing "never" and 5 representing "always". Your answers will be kept absolutely confidential. Please return to Pam Bunka's mailbox AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, but no later than Feb. 12 (or 18th for middle school students).

**Has this student completed all assignments in your class ON TIME?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you feel this student works to his/her FULLEST potential?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does this student possess the SELF-CONFIDENCE necessary to interview or photograph adults/teachers/peers?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does this student respect AUTHORITY and display ethical behavior in your classroom?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does this student accept constructive CRITICISM and implement your suggestions to improve his/her work?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you feel this student would be a POSITIVE addition to the staff?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

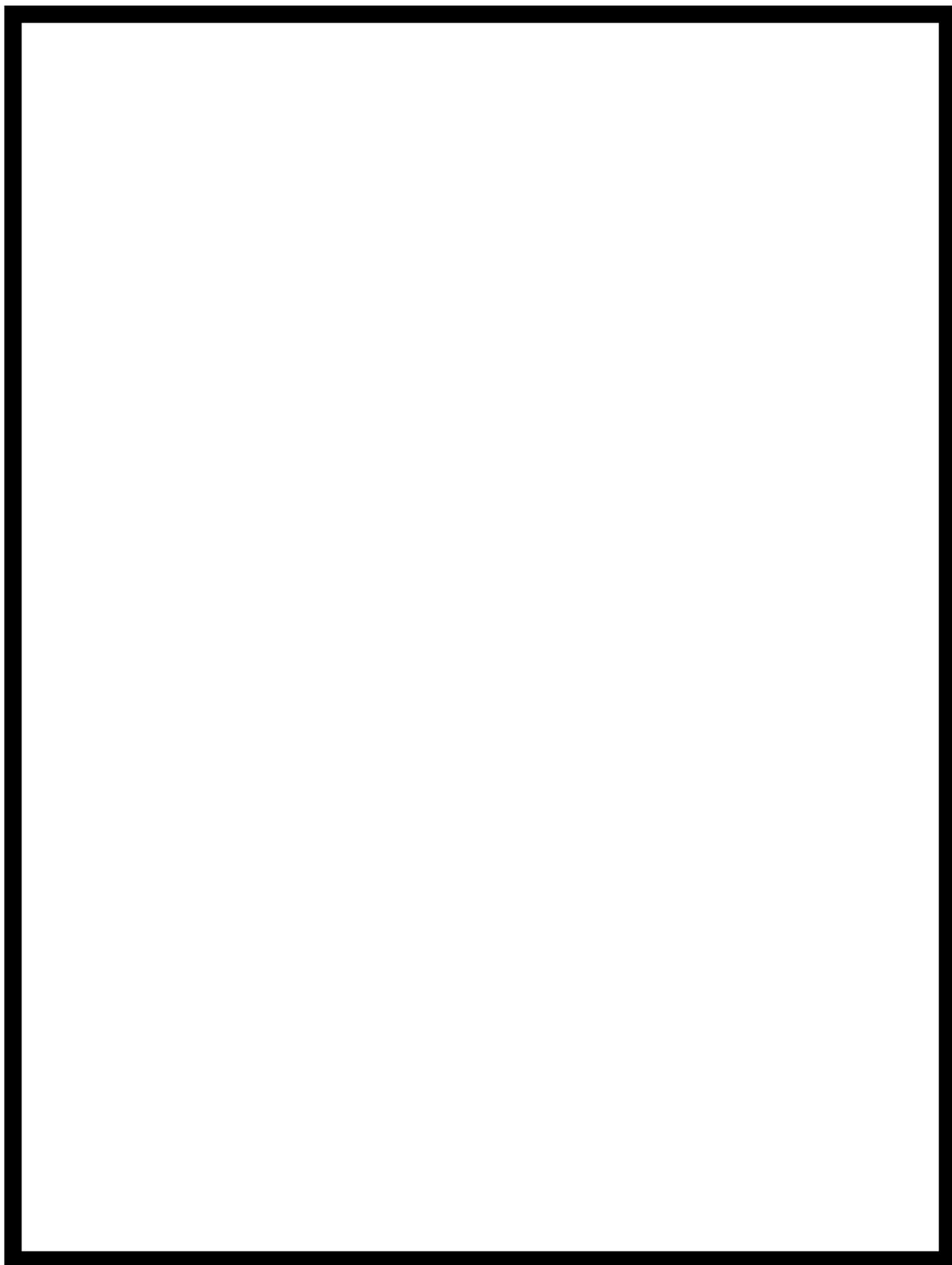
**Is this person an INDEPENDENT thinker/worker who is able to complete assignments without a lot of direction?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR WRITERS ONLY: Please rank this student's writing ability when compared to others in his/her grade.**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Fenton Publications

2015-2016 Staff Application

## STUDENT RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff (circle one): Fentonian InPrint  
Position (circle one): Writer Business Design

Dear Faculty Member: The student named above is applying for a position on the newspaper, yearbook or photo staff and has given your name as a reference. Please answer the following questions by rating the student using a number scale of 1-5, with 1 representing "never" and 5 representing "always". Your answers will be kept absolutely confidential. Please return to Pam Bunka's mailbox AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, but no later than Feb. 12 (or 18th for middle school students).

**Has this student completed all assignments in your class ON TIME?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you feel this student works to his/her FULLEST potential?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does this student possess the SELF-CONFIDENCE necessary to interview or photograph adults/teachers/peers?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does this student respect AUTHORITY and display ethical behavior in your classroom?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does this student accept constructive CRITICISM and implement your suggestions to improve his/her work?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you feel this student would be a POSITIVE addition to the staff?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this person an INDEPENDENT thinker/worker who is able to complete assignments without a lot of direction?**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR WRITERS ONLY: Please rank this student's writing ability when compared to others in his/her grade.**

1 2 3 4 5 comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

