

INSTITUTE 2009 - OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Students and teachers are looking forward to summer for many reasons. One of the best is that we have the opportunity to attend a workshop to improve our journalistic skills. We want to tell you about the North Carolina Scholastic Media Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, so that you can help your son/daughter attend these 20+ hours of hands-on instruction in lifelong skills. Dates are June 15-18.

Your son/daughter will choose one of the following six divisions: desktop publishing, literary magazine, newspaper, photojournalism, TV news or yearbook. Students will learn how to combine writing, design and photography into first-rate publications. Those in the TV news division will learn how to produce, direct, edit and announce. All students will gain hands-on experience in the division they choose to attend.

Workshop General Information:

•**Housing:** Students will be housed in the same dormitories used by UNC students all year. This year housing is in Teague and Parker residence halls, with parking for advisers' cars and school buses in campus parking decks. All students will come with their advisers or with a parent the adviser has selected, and groups from the same school will be housed together. Advisers will monitor the residence halls so that workshop participants can study and live comfortably with their neighbors. All students will be required to be in the residence hall by 10:30 p.m. and in their own rooms and quiet by 11:30 p.m., with rooms checked by advisers. Lights must be out by midnight.

•**Faculty:** Top-notch instructors from North Carolina and the nation will assist students in learning the best journalistic techniques.

•**Other Rules and Regulations:** All rules in effect at N. C. high schools are in effect at the Institute, and students are expected to work with advisers, faculty and staff to make the Institute an enjoyable time for learning. Rules will be strictly adhered to, and anyone not following the rules will be sent home at his or her expense. Participants and parents/guardians must submit a signed Code of Conduct and Release form, as well as insurance policy numbers for emergency medical treatment.

•**Registration:** Cost of the workshop is \$210 per participant (\$140 for commuters), with the postmark deadline of May 26. This fee covers tuition, housing and two meals. Participants will need to purchase remaining meals (generally costing about \$7 in fast food restaurants on Franklin Street and slightly more in Lenoir Hall).

•**Refunds:** In case a participant has to cancel before June 1, a 50 percent refund will be made. No refund can be made after June 1 because of budgetary obligations. Finding a replacement is best if a person must cancel after the form is mailed.

Now that you know at least the highlights about this summer program and a little about how much students can learn in preparation for next year, we hope you will consider its benefits and help your daughter/son attend. Please contact me at the school if I can be of further help to you.

Sincerely,