WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF “SUPER SCHOOL NEWS”!

We have a lot of great programs, projects and programming going on here at Rocky Mountain PBS, but, without a doubt, one of the most beloved is “Super School News” - incredibly, now starting its 38th year! This program is geared specifically toward 5th and 6th graders and is designed to teach them about journalism and broadcasting. Along the way they also hone other important skills such as compelling storytelling, creative writing and public speaking. And, just as importantly, they learn about collaboration and teamwork, handling stress, gaining self-confidence and so many other valuable personal lessons.

This program, conducted in compliance with Colorado State Standards, is open to 5th and 6th graders statewide. Last year, 79 schools and approximately 712 students participated, each of them completing a newscast to share with their schools and our audience. Many of the these young students become permanently bitten by the journalism bug, and we have scores of letters and testimonials to prove it, such as the following letter from Adam S. of Bergen Elementary School in Evergreen, who participated in 1989:

“SSN was one of my first appearances on television and I remember every second of it - from my embarrassed goofy smile face to my juggling outro. That experience introduced me to the world of television and video, and solidified my profession choice. I ended up volunteering at Channel 6 and eventually worked my way into an internship and then a paid position...I currently live in Los Angeles and work as a Director of Photography. Thank you Channel 6 and SSN for everything!!!”

Read more of these testimonials at http://www.rmpbs.org/ssn/ssntestimonials.

“Super School News” is sponsored by Colorado Education Association and we could not be more grateful for their support. We look forward to another exciting season of exposing tomorrow’s broadcasters to the challenging and fulfilling world of television news.

See you on the set!

Amanda Mountain
CEO and President
Rocky Mountain Public Media
GETTING STARTED AS A “SUPER SCHOOL NEWS”CASTER

Attend MANDATORY orientation session scheduled approximately 4-5 weeks ahead of actual taping day.

CREATE a 2-minute broadcast with 2 anchors and 2 chroma key stories with up to 2 reporters each to tell stories unique to your school.

MEET with your Faculty Advisor and brainstorm ideas for your newscast.

COLLABORATIVELY WORK together.

REPORT on interesting activities or events
• At school
• In your community or
• Important people

WRITE the script (see “Sample Script” and “Script Template” at www.rmpbs.org/ssn/participatingssnschools/)

GATHER pictures, costumes and props, and make a banner.

PRACTICE and time your script at home, in school, and in front of the mirror.

RETURN signed Release Agreement to your Faculty Advisor. If you’d like to buy a “Super School News” t-shirt or newscast DVD, let your Faculty Advisor know. Note: Only the first names of students will appear on the public video.

BE PREPARED by the time the Rocky Mountain PBS volunteer visits your school. Your volunteer will review your final two-minute dress rehearsal with costumes, props, and banner.

TAPING DAY

Your one-and-a-half hour visit will include three 30-minute blocks of time for a station tour, observation of one newscast taping from the control room, and your newscast taping.

At the Denver station, all adults who accompany students MUST sign in and sign out at the reception desk and receive a “Visitor” tag. This tag must be displayed at all times. Adults and students must stay with their group at all times.

Anchors will be provided with purple polo shirts to wear during the newscast, so anchors, please wear a shirt or blouse that can be easily changed.

Enjoy this wonderful experience, relax, have fun, and SMILE.

You will receive the broadcast dates and times for your school. Please note that occasionally these times/dates may need to change. Your school newscast will also be available on the Rocky Mountain PBS web site (www.rmpbs.org/ssn) within five days after taping day. Share your newscast with your classmates, school, teachers, parents, and community. (Don’t forget to post on your social media and school website!)
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FACULTY ADVISOR

IDENTIFY student participants and their roles
• 2 anchors and a maximum of 4 reporters
• You may have additional students assist in writing, production, or creating visuals.

COACH students on reporting, interviewing, and developing the script. Remember, scripts should be written by the news team and run no longer than two minutes.

FORMAT SCRIPT using sample script and script template (see Sample Script and Script Template at www.rmpbs.org/ssn/participatingssnschools/)

GUIDE students on creating background photos, props, costumes and a desk banner sized 18”x50”.

SPREAD the news of your “Super School News” event via parent and student newsletters, bulletin boards, social media and school web site.

RELEASE AGREEMENT forms have to be signed for each student appearing in front of a camera on taping day. Also have permission for any student in a picture, and for any copyrighted material.

PRODUCTION ELEMENTS

SCRIPT
The script is extremely important! Both newscasters and production crew must follow the script exactly to create the newscast. Bring copies of the final version to your taping.

ON-AIR VISUALS
Digital photos in landscape format are required for chroma key backgrounds and any full-screen graphics. Consider visual framing and photo quality when choosing a graphic—how will a photo look with reporters standing in front of it? Obtain permission to use any photo not taken by the newscasters.

VIDEO CLIPS CANNOT be incorporated into your newscast.

AUDIO
The studio has a vast collection of sound effects, but if your audio effect is not available, you may provide it on a CD in MP3 or WAV Format. Label the CD with your school and effect names. NO OTHER FORMATS can be accepted.

PROPS AND COSTUMES
The more fun you have creating your newscasts, the more fun it will be to watch. Using props and/ or costumes is terrific!

ANCHOR DESK BANNER
Please create a banner for the front of the anchor desk. Make it bold! The banner should be approximately 18” x 50” in landscape format.
GUIDELINES FOR SCRIPT FORMAT

Note: A script template in Word Format can be found at www.rmpbs.org/ssn/participatingssnschools.

INCLUDE the following information on the top of each page of the script: school name, anchor and reporter names, page number and total # of pages, and taping date.

The script has two sections:
- Video (what will be seen) on the left-hand side of the page
  - Insert the anchor and reporter names here in line with their text; also list chroma key photos and full screen graphics in this column.
- Audio (what will be said) on the right-hand side
  - All scripted words go here, plus any requested sound effects.

TYPE YOUR SCRIPT before rehearsal day so newscasters will be able to read it easily. Changes may need to be made after rehearsal.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE SCRIPT

Begin your script by opening with something like, “My name is _______________. I’m a student at _________________ Elementary and this is “Super School News”.” Be creative in your introduction. Plan to delay displaying a graphic until the newscaster has said a few words so the camera can get a good shot of the newscaster speaking and his/her name can be shown on the screen. Two to three sentences are a minimum to give time for your ID.

Use a full-screen graphic only if it can be shown long enough for a viewer to get a good look at what is being talked about in your story (about five seconds). A maximum of two graphics may be used.

To incorporate reporters into your newscast, they must be at the chroma key in front of a visual. Anchors introduce reporters (“Now to John Smith and Ann Jones at outdoor lab . . .”). After their story, reporters send it back to the anchor. This procedure may be used a second time as a maximum of two chroma keys are allowed.

Anchors should end the newscast with a closing like, “This has been “Super School News” from __________ Elementary.” Be creative in your closing.
**VIDEO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jocelyn</th>
<th>Hi! I'm Jocelyn Delgado and I'm a fifth grader at USA elementary school.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jose</td>
<td>And I'm Jose Reynoza, also a fifth grader in Mrs. Tatic's class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocelyn</td>
<td>We're from Southeast Elementary in Brighton. There are many new things at Southeast. One of them is a playground for which the third graders picked the equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose</td>
<td>We also have many new teachers; like Mrs. Libsack who loves to teach at Southeast because it's closer to home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic 1 - Teachers</td>
<td>Mrs. Scheppy, Mrs. Lowen, and Mrs. Mininger feel teaching at Southeast is exciting and challenging. The staff has been welcoming to Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Hogle. (The students at Southeast are privileged to have such great additions.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chroma Key 1 Library</td>
<td>Now to Hollis Gore and Melissa Mullinax in the school library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollis</td>
<td>We're here in the library to tell you about our collection of one million poptops. The collection began in 2004 when Mrs. Heiby was teaching her third grade students about the number one million. She decided to collect poptops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>In 2005, after becoming a whole school project, the collecting was finished. Mrs. Heiby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Melissa
Graphic 2 Collection

Jose

Joselyn

Chormas Key 2
Kids in Choir

Justine

Kinsey

Jocelyn/Jose

donated one thousand dollars so we could (build containers to hold the poptops. This is our finished collection.) Now back to Jose at the studio.

Thanks Mellissa. Brighton's annual Homecoming Parade took place on September 19th. Many different schools and sports teams participated in the parade. Clubs like Decca, choir, and drama rode in floats. The Southeast Student Council walked in the parade. Everyone had a great time.

Let's go back to school where Justine Espinisa and Kinsey Rogers will report on musical opportunities.

SOUND FX: HORN BLOWING

If you're musically inclined there is something for you. Our band is made up of fifth graders and is lead by Mr. Unrich. He teaches us how to play the clarinet, sax and many other instruments. The first concert is in December.

At southwest we have a choir group is made up of 4th and 5th graders. Students must try out to be in this group. The director of the Sound Connection is Mrs. Bau.

Once again back to the news desk.

I'm Jocelyn Delgado, and I'm Jose Reynoza.... saying “goodbye” from Southeast.
PRODUCTION TIPS

THE RULE OF “TWOS”
Only so much will fit in two minutes, so please limit your script to the following:
- Two anchors
- Two chroma key segments with two reporters in each segment
- Two full screen graphics

BE CREATIVE
Use your imagination and let it run wild. But keep in mind that we do have some technical limitations and a limited amount of time. The best way we can help you be creative is to go “on location” through a special effect called “chroma key” (pronounced Kro-Muh-Key) shot in front of a green screen.

CHROMA KEY
Chroma key is an electronic special effect. Through this process, we can make it look like you are standing out in the world or beyond: on the moon, on the wing of an airplane, in a blood cell . . . anywhere your imagination takes you. To use the chroma key, here’s what you need to know and remember:
- The reporter stands in front of a green screen. Our video switcher electronically removes everything colored green, and replaces it with any visual you send in (ex., the moon, the airplane, the blood cell).
- You must send in the visual you want to be inserted (a photograph, a postcard). Remember to choose images that will work with two reporters standing in front of them. Your image should not be too “busy” so that it competes with the reporters.
- Because we electronically remove everything green, don’t wear green (or colors close to green like turquoise and aqua). Colors such as red, orange and some yellow are best.
- Our green screen space is limited. We only have room for two people, maximum.

Choose attire and props that go along with your stories.

BE PREPARED
Practice, practice, practice!

HAVE FUN!!!!
**DRESS REHEARSAL DAY WITH YOUR ROCKY MOUNTAIN PBS VOLUNTEER**

**SCHEDULE** a visit from your Rocky Mountain PBS volunteer two weeks before taping day.

**HAVE THE CURRENT SCRIPT** typed with indicated pictures and sound bites.

**REHEARSE** the two minute newscast with your volunteer.

**REVIEW** photos (in landscape format), props, costumes, and desk banner.

**EMAIL YOUR FINAL VERSION OF THE SCRIPT, STUDENT CREDIT LIST AND PHOTOS** to Diane Cerafici dianecerarfci@rmpbs.org or fax it to her attention at 303-620-5600.

**TAPPING DAY**
Your visit will include three 30-minute blocks of time to include a Rocky Mountain PBS station tour, production observation in the control room, and a newscast rehearsal prior to taping.

**ARRANGE** for transportation and lunch (if necessary) for your students.

**ARRIVE 30 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED TAPING TIME,** unless you have an 11:00 or 2:00 taping time, arrive ONE hour early.

**PARKING:** The Rocky Mountain PBS parking lot in Denver may be full, but 2-hour street parking is available.

**REMEMBER!**
- Signed Release Agreement forms for students and any copyrighted material.
- Student Credit List clearly printed. This can be found at (www.rmpbs.org/ssp/participatingssnschools).
- Student scripts plus 8 extra copies for the production staff
- Forms and money for DVDs and T-shirts
- BANNER – approximately 18” x 50”
- Costumes and props

*It is permissible to record and take photos on Taping Day. WEATHER CANCELLATION occurs only if school is cancelled.*
“SUPER SCHOOL NEWS” CASTER CHECKLIST

FOUR WEEKS BEFORE TAPING

**REVIEW** all “Super School News” requirements with your instructor.

**OBSERVE** other newscasts for story and presentation ideas, and take notes:

**INVESTIGATE** to discover news possibilities within your school:
- Talk to teachers
- Talk to students
- Talk to others
- Observe surroundings
- Make a LONG list of ideas

**TEST** each topic for newsworthiness:
- Is it unique?
- Is it interesting?
- Is it representative of my school or community?
- How can I present it?

**STAR** the newsworthy topics

**SELECT** the final list of topics

**DETERMINE** visuals for newscast

**DRAFT** a script

THREE WEEKS BEFORE TAPING

Finalize your tools: a script completed using script template, photos, costumes and props

Practice your newscast for timing (two minutes maximum) with clarity and enunciation. Speak slowly and clearly so your audience will understand you

Make sure release/agreement forms are signed

TWO WEEKS BEFORE TAPING

**BE PREPARED FOR REHEARSAL** with your Rocky Mountain PBS volunteer at school. Your scripts should be typed and copied, your visuals assembled and your banner completed

**AFTER REHEARSAL**
**FINALIZE** the script, photos and student credit list based on suggestions from your Rocky Mountain PBS volunteer.

**EMAIL YOUR SCRIPT**, photos and student credit list to Diane Cerafici dianecerafici@rmpbs.org or fax to her attention at 303-620-5600.

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!**
GLOSSARY

NEWS TEAM – all students involved in writing, photographing and reporting to produce your news-cast.

ANCHOR – two students that report from the “Super School News” desk; anchors who wear polo shirts provided by Rocky Mountain PBS.

REPORTER – up to two students reporting “on location” from the chroma key; must have photo backdrop.

SCRIPT – several stories about your school written by the students, with up to two chroma keys and two graphics.

VISUALS – any photo, drawing, painting, etc., shown on air during newscast.

CHROMA KEY – photo(s) used as backdrop behind reporters so it appears as if reporters are in the picture or “on location.”

GRAPHICS – photo(s) used to illustrate a story. Picture covers entire screen and reporter is not see for the few seconds that photo is shown.

“SUPER SCHOOL NEWS” ORIENTATIONS

Fall Orientation – September ____________

Winter Orientation – January ____________

Rehearsal Date (Approximately two weeks prior to taping date.) ________________

Taping Date ________________________________
“SUPER SCHOOL NEWS” & THE 2014 COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

“Super School News” is committed to upholding the state of Colorado’s Common Core standards for 5th and 6th graders. We are also dedicated to the advancement of all students in 21st century skills which including critical thinking, information literacy, collaboration, self-direction, and invention. The structure of “Super School News” inherently promotes these assets and has been widely praised over its 35 years of existence for developing team building, collaboration, self-direction, reasoning and interpretation. We are proud to be in alignment with these accepted state standards. Using all the skills detailed below, “Super School News” students ultimately learn to transform the written word on the script to the spoken word delivered during the newscast, all with poise and confidence.

For more information on Colorado’s common core standards, please go to www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/coloradostandards
# READING, WRITING, AND COMMUNICATING: GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARD</th>
<th>GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIFTH GRADE</td>
<td>1. Effective communication requires speakers to express an opinion, provide information, describe a process, and persuade an audience. 2. Listening strategies are techniques that contribute to understanding different situations and serving different purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Reading for All Purposes</td>
<td>1. Literary texts are understood and interpreted using a range of strategies. 2. Ideas found in a variety of informational texts need to be compared and understood. 3. Knowledge of morphology and word relationships matters when reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Writing and Composition</td>
<td>1. The recursive writing process contributes to the creative and unique literary genres for a variety of audiences and purposes. 2. The recursive writing process creates stronger informational and persuasive texts for a variety of audiences and purposes. 3. Conventions apply consistently when evaluating written texts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Research and Reasoning</td>
<td>1. High-quality research requires information that is organized and presented with documentation. 2. Identifying and evaluating concepts and ideas have implications and consequences. 3. Quality reasoning requires asking questions and analyzing and evaluating viewpoints.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIXTH GRADE</th>
<th>GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Oral Expression and Listening</td>
<td>1. Successful group discussions require planning and participation by all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Reading for All Purposes</td>
<td>1. Understanding the meaning within different types of literature depends on properly analyzing literary components. 2. Organizing structure to understand and analyze factual information. 3. Word meanings are determined by how they are designed and how they are used in context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Writing and Composition</td>
<td>1. Writing literary genres for intended audiences and purposes requires ideas, organization, and voice. 2. Writing informational and persuasive genres for intended audiences and purposes require ideas, organization, and voice develop. 3. Specific editing for grammar, usage, mechanics, and clarity gives writing its precision and legitimacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Research and Reasoning</td>
<td>1. Individual and group research projects require obtaining information on a topic from a variety of sources and organizing it for presentation. 2. Assumptions can be concealed, and require identification and evaluation. 3. Monitoring the thinking of self and others is a disciplined way to maintain awareness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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