

EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP AT THE CHARGER ACCOUNT

Awarded the 2026 First Amendment Press Freedom Award, Served as Editor-in-Chief and features editor for my schools news publication, established my schools first news magazine, trained and facilitated a new editorial board for my publication, published over 100 stories within my first semester as Editor-in-Chief, and was awarded honorable mention in Features Writing at the 2025 Seattle JEA convention.

In my two years of editorial positions for my school's publication, I adopted a leadership philosophy: I was never to correct the errors of my peers, but rather offer individualized feedback to promote academic growth. My goal was to build trust and weave kindness into every lesson, making kindness central to my leadership style. I regularly revisited my approach, learning the balance between correction and discussion. Over time, I revised my philosophy, fostering a collaborative newsroom where students and I overcame educational barriers and developed a passion for journalism. From my time spent as Editor-in-Chief, I learned that building relationships became vital for the cohesiveness of the school's newsroom. Within my leadership the new foundations of the class began to be rooted in collaborative and flexible lessons/assignments that allow for students' personal growth; the course framework is constantly adjusted to fit the needs of students, focused on student's development in writing. I plan to continue my leadership style, fostering an inclusive and interactive community that welcomes peer discussion. Ultimately, my leadership philosophy reflected an opportunity for students to grow in their writing and success in learning.

The leadership moment I am most proud of is adopting a collaborative and supportive editorial board; without them, the publication would not be what it is today. Welcoming the 2025 Fall semester came the arrival of a staff of just over 25, who needed to be trained in our foundations for Journalism. Tasked with keeping the publication active, training new reporters, and designing the second edition of our news magazine, I was able to depend on the editorial board. Similar to a family, the editorial board was able to love and support the future of our Journalism program.

Kris is a thoughtful, humble, and caring person who has shouldered so much responsibility in his capacity as Editor-In-Chief. Kris came in with his sleeves rolled up and got to work making our news website and newsmagazine more professional with clear focus on adhering to more professional journalistic standards in a way that past editors had become lax in doing. His endless patience and strong desire to support all staffers regardless of their experience or natural talent has made him such an asset to our program. His belief in the importance of student press freedom has been his guiding star.