

# News Page Design

2012 KSPA Regional Contest

---

## Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's The Star. Your newspaper is a biweekly with the next edition to come out March 12. Your editor has asked you to design page five, where you feature your in-depth stories.

## School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School  
Location: Aspera, Kansas  
Mascot: Box Turtles  
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)  
School Colors: Green & Gold  
Yearbook: The Honeybee  
Newspaper: The Star

## Contest Info

This is a **carry-in** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner on the back of your entry.

**Do not** put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

## Assignment

You will find one story and five photos on the following pages and on the Web.

The story is about highly-involved students at Ad Astra. You may edit it down slightly if you need it to fit a space, but you should use at least 75 percent of the story. That means it should be a major part of your layout.

The photos and other elements that you choose to add (including headlines) should work to complement each other in a cohesive single-issue layout. Good luck.

\* For story and photo download instructions see page 3.

## Specifications

Using the available story and photos (see download instructions on Web site), design page 5, where you always place special issue-oriented features. You may design a special page-header (such as "INDEEP" or "THE STAR REPORT") that would indicate that this is a standing feature. The page should include folio information as well as the stories and corresponding photo(s) you see fit to include. Designers may add illustrative art, mug shots or other graphics not included among the available photos to enhance overall design. You will have to write your own headlines for the stories.

The newspaper must be designed as a tabloid, 17 inches deep by 11 inches wide. The designer may determine the number of columns. Entries must be computer-generated and may be submitted in color, or black and white. Entries must be printed on a single 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper, reduced to fit.

## Other Specifications

Photos should be cropped, cut out, and enlarged or reduced to fit the design plan.

You may edit stories down slightly if you need it to fit a space, but you should use at least 75 percent of each.

The headline and other subheadlines (internal and/or atop the story) should suggest the content of the story and should be designed in exactly the size, style and location you want.

You may use the cutlines provided on page 3 of these instructions.



## Main Story

Marcia Brady wakes up in the morning at 5:30 a.m., eats breakfast, and is on campus by 6:45 a.m., searching for parking.

After her first hour class, she's at work in the main office by 9 a.m., answering emails and phone calls, squeezing in meetings throughout the day, going to softball practice, practicing with the band color guard and attending classes on top of that. By 7 p.m., she's rehearsing for theater. She gets home a few hours later, feeds her cats, eats dinner, finishes homework and in the morning, starts it all over again.

"My life is a complete trainwreck sometimes," Brady said, munching on Donettes while scurrying from her job in the main office to her chemistry class. "My parents think I'm nuts, but I always pull through."

Students like Brady, a junior, are not hard to come by at Ad Astra. They are leaders, balancing on the hinges of classes, part-time jobs, internships, sports and club positions. Their lifestyles are hectic, but they aren't complaining. In fact, they are actually enjoying it.

"I know I'm insanely busy, but when it gets down to it, I realize I'm happy. That's what matters," said Brady, who also the intern with Center for Student Leadership, Involvement & Service (CSLIS).

As a junior, Brady has already worked as a freshman orientation leader, the elections commissioner, and holds the position of club president for Student Advocates for Peace (SAP).

"My peace activities are so important to me," Brady said. "There's so much strife and fighting in the world, I feel that my generation has to be the one that finally puts an end to it. I mean, why can't we all just get along, you know?"

Managing a social life seems impossible at this rate, but these highly-involved students are masters of prioritizing their time without sacrificing friendships. In fact, most of them commit to certain extracurricular activities because they enjoy becoming part of new social circles, and they won't put up with boredom.

"When I'm not busy I feel like I'm missing out," said Brady. "I've found I only need about three hours of sleep every night. Oh, and these massive frappuccinos help a lot in the afternoon."

Student-athletes are especially feeling the pressure of each busy day and handling both social

and academic agendas. Junior Cyrus Ray juggles tennis practice four days a week, as well as traveling tournaments, and a full course load of seven classes.

Ray is also a representative for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and the Vice President of Public Relations for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Like many students, Gaynor is heavily involved in many aspects of leadership at AAHS.

"I strive to do the best in whatever I do. I'm a competitor so whether it's on the tennis court or with academics, I'm working my hardest," said Ray.

Yet with each limb stretched out to a different area of involvement, when do students reach the breaking point? Can too much involvement on campus be unhealthy? Senior Hannah Fontana doesn't think so.

"The people who are most involved at school in something positive do the best academically. I think the only time you are over-involved is when your academics suffer," she said.

Fontana has seven classes units since she has been at AAHS, and recently won the "Girl Student Leader of the Year" award for her involvement as the peer advisor for the Leadership Freshman Interest Group (L-FIG).

During her four years here, Fontana has also worked as a freshman orientation leader, a CSA for Verdot and Sauvignon, and volunteered her time with Hillel, the Jewish student group.

"When you're putting all your effort into something, that's when you find you are passionate about it," said Fontana. "A lot of the positions I've been in have been time consuming, energy-driven commitments, but I am the happiest when I'm busy. Being busy doesn't give you time to dwell on things. When you slow down, that's when you crash."

Unlike Fontana, many students like Stormy Gutierrez, the editor in chief of both the newspaper and yearbook, have sacrificed grades in order to keep up with work or fulfill leadership positions on campus.

"Because of this job, I just gave up on my 4.0," said Gutierrez. "Otherwise I would have had to sacrifice what I find enjoyable, and I didn't want to do that."

However, Gutierrez and many others recognize that attending high school is so much more than taking classes.

They are embracing the opportunities AAHS

has bestowed upon them, and are learning to appreciate the weekends and those rare moments of free time.

"Saturday is the one day I have to do whatever," said Gutierrez. "Sometimes my friend and I go up to Roberts Road and walk the hills there. That's the relaxing to me, because when I'm up there I don't think about contracts or money or deadlines or school. That's how I get through the day, taking time to breathe and focus."

It takes a certain breed of student to maintain this healthy outlook while still having enough energy

to be so busy. Yet anyone at AAHS can start taking on responsibilities now that will help them become more successful after high school.

When it comes down to it, AAHS needs more people like these so-called "overachievers" helping run the school, says Principal Emmylou Harris, people who realize the importance of working hard in today's world.

"All around campus, they are accomplishing tasks that revolve around helping others, not filling in lines on a resume," Harris said. "Plus, they still finish each day with smiles on their faces."

### **Photo Captions**

#### **Photo #1: SOFTBALL**

Junior Marcia Brady flexes her softball muscle--one of the many activities Brady is involved in at AAHS.

#### **Photo #2: PEACE SIGN**

Marcia Brady, junior, flashes a peace sign at the Student Advocates for Peace (SAP) rally outside AAHS this October. Brady is the president of SAP.

#### **Photo #3: THEATRE**

Junior Marcia Brady and senior Bob Christie practice their dance scene for the theatre production of *West Side Story*. The show premiered on October 15.

#### **Photo #4: STRESS**

Senior Hannah Fontana expresses her frustration and stress due to the many activities she participates in while trying to also balance schoolwork.

#### **Photo #5: PROTEST**

Members of Student Advocates for Peace (SAP) participate in the Occupy Ad Astra protest during the month of October.

### **Instructions for Downloading Contest Photos and Stories**

1. Go to the following address: <http://www.kspaonline.org/regionals/2012-regional-contests/>
2. Scroll down to find the section designated for Newspaper Design Photos and Stories. There is one story in Word document format and five photos.
3. Click and download the Word file by clicking on the link "2012 News Page Design Story."
4. Click on the links to download the photo files.