Dear Middle School Advisers and Staffs,

I hope that your year is beginning to wind down some, snow days are over, and spring days are ahead. Let me introduce myself. My name is Mary Patrick. I have been a middle school journalism adviser for 28 years and am currently the middle school representative for the Kansas Scholastic Press Association. KSPA and I would like to invite you to a middle school workshop on Saturday, April 5, at Maize South Middle School in Wichita, Kansas. The workshop is from 9-1. The address of the school is 3403 North Tyler. I will provide personalized directions to our workshop, if needed.

Our featured guest speaker is Linda Drake, who is the past Yearbook Adviser of the Year and current president of Kansas Scholastic Press Association. She has won numerous national awards and is an inspiring speaker and journalist. I will be assisting Linda and I can bring to the workshop the background of middle school. I also have experience speaking and our program too has won many awards. At this point I am hoping that another adviser will be joining us who is a professional photographer as well as a middle school adviser.

We want this workshop to be open to everyone: advisers, students, experienced staff members, brand new staff members, those interested in becoming staff members. Anyone who is interested in photography, journalism trends, design, literary magazine, newspaper, yearbook and broadcast should find something of value from our workshop.

Here is the schedule we are planning on using. We do honor requests and if you have a particular need please let me know:

8:30—9:00—Time to meet, gather, juice and donuts

9:00-12:00—We will offer the following sessions which we hope will help your program. You will have time to go to three of the four of these. If you have an interest in something we are not offering, PLEASE let me know and we will try to get another instructor involved. Here are the sessions:

1. Maximize your time and minimize your stress. What is new in journalism and how can you use it to make your publication the best it can be.
2. Photoshop Tips and Tricks
3. Photography—How can you get ordinary photos from extraordinary subjects
4. All about writing—features, captions, headlines. How do you write something that someone wants to read.

12:00—1:00—This is our Great Ideas portion of the program. Please bring something from one of your publications. Either share why it is already a great idea or tell what great idea you learned from the day that you would apply to your publication. There are prizes for everyone who participates and snacks for everyone, even the quiet ones!

Now for the best part of the workshop: it is absolutely FREE. All materials, snacks, computer use, etc. will be provided by the speakers and Kansas Scholastic Press Association. We feel strongly that we should provide some special opportunities for middle school. After all, without interested middle school students and advisers, we would not have some of the great high school journalism programs we have today. All we need from you is a commitment that you will attend. We feel we need a minimum of 10 participants to make this workshop a go. If you would like to attend, please e-mail me your name and any students’ who will be coming. We need to have an accurate count by Tuesday, April 1.

I have also included material about our middle school mail-in contest. Cost of the contest is $12, which covers first place medals, all certificates and mailing back of the contest materials. You may submit up to 12 entries spread among the categories of design, photography, feature writing and broadcast. Please see contest attachment for more information.

We hope to see you on April 5.

Sincerely,

Mary Patrick, CJE

Middle School Representative for the Kansas Scholastic Press Association

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