**erland High School’s *Scout* Editorial Policy**

The *Scout* is a quarterly publication of the Newspaper class at Overland High School, 12400 E. Jewell Ave., Aurora, CO, 80012, 720-747-3892.

The *Scout* is an open forum of student expression and of the uninhibited, free, and open discussion of ideas. Decisions of content are made by students in keeping with professional journalistic standards. The *Scout* will not intentionally print anything that is libelous, obscene, copyrighted, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or that causes a substantial disruption of school activities. This applies to all articles, letters, photographs, artwork, and advertisements that appear in the *Scout*.

The *Scout* and its staff are protected by and bound to the principles of the First Amendment of the Constitution, Section 22-1-120 of the Colorado Student Free Expression Law, and other protections and limitations as afforded by the Constitution and the various court decisions implementing those principles.

The *Scout* will not be reviewed, restrained or withheld from distribution by school administrators prior to distribution. The editorial staff makes decisions on the content of the paper with the final decision made by the editors-in-chief. The *Scout* adviser serves as a teacher and adviser whose chief responsibility is to guide students in the skills, functions, and laws and ethics of a free press. The adviser reviews copy and advises editors and reporters but does not and will not determine the content of the paper nor act as a censor.

Because the *Scout* staff determines content of the publication, it will therefore take complete legal and financial responsibility for what is printed. The administration, adviser, and the district do not bear any responsibility for content of the *Scout*. Staff members will strive to correct any error before publication; however, if the editorial board determines a significant error is printed, a formal correction will appear in the following issue.

Bylined editorials represent the opinion of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the view of the *Scout*. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion taken by a majority of the *Scout* staff and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Overland High School, the Cherry Creek School District, the adviser, administration, faculty, staff, or student body.

*The Scout* encourages letters to the editor as well as article-length submissions. As a forum for open expression, the *Scout* will publish all letters, provided they bear the name of the author and after they have been checked for verification. Letters must be 300 words or less and contain the author’s name and address.

The *Scout* editorial board reserves the right to withhold a letter or article if it determines the piece contains items of unprotected speech. Should a letter contain errors in fact, excessive grammatical errors, or be too long, it will be returned to the author for resubmission. Letters are subject to editing for grammar and will be checked for verification. The *Scout* will not run, under any circumstances, unsigned letters or articles. Please submit letters and articles to OverlandScout@gmail.com, to the newspaper mailbox in the main office, or mail to The *Scout*, care of Overland High School.

In the case of the death of a current or former student or staff, the *Scout* will treat the matter in a tasteful, respectful manner. Coverage will be journalistically written, emphasizing on the person’s life and providing funeral service, contribution, and counseling details. As with all content in the *Scout*, the editorial board will make the final decision about the extent of the coverage of the death.

Advertising space is available continually. The *Scout* will accept all advertisements provided they do not contain unprotected speech or advocate illegal activity for minors. In cases involving political advertising, efforts will be made to solicit all points of view. Advertising decisions rest with the *Scout* editorial board.

Photos published in the *Scout* will not be altered except as necessary in professionally accepted cropping and darkroom procedures. Photos that are manipulated for illustration purposes will be clearly labeled “photo illustrations.”

The *Scout* strives for accuracy and balance in its coverage. The *Scout* consults with Student Press Law Center attorneys on matters of potential liability.