ASCENSION ARTS ACADEMY

Student Media Program

Hamilton school partnership pilot

Practical reporting. School sports. Local arts.
A supervised introduction to modern media production.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	PLACES PER SCHOOL	INITIAL CAPACITY
Up to 5	Up to 2 senior students	Up to 10 students

Learning through real community stories

Students interview, gather evidence, capture footage and check AI-assisted drafts. Suitable work is considered for publication by The Northern Current, including a weekly Hamilton school-sports highlight show.

Prepared for guidance counsellors, co-op teachers and school leaders.

Proposed pilot - October 2026
Program supervisor: Kirk Alfaro, representing GDE and TNC. School participation, placement arrangements and dates remain to be confirmed. This proposal does not claim an approved co-op placement, SHSM designation or accredited credential.

Contact: Kirk Alfaro | info@thenortherncurrent.com

A meaningful first experience

The program is designed primarily for high-school seniors exploring future study and career options. College students may be considered through a separate pathway after the school pilot is established.

What students gain

LEARNING	PORTFOLIO EVIDENCE
Interviewing and listening	An approved interview with accurate notes and quotations
Fact-checking and media literacy	A recap supported by sources and a verification record
Photography and video	Original clips, shot notes and a short edited segment
Responsible use of AI	A checked draft and examples of corrections made
Collaboration and reflection	Editorial feedback and a final portfolio

Engaging subjects, appropriate responsibility

School teams, athlete profiles, student bands, performances, theatre, visual arts and approved community events give students accessible stories to cover. Sensitive allegations, crime, medical details and confrontational investigations are assigned to experienced adults.

Who does what

PARTNER	PROPOSED RESPONSIBILITY
Ascension Arts Academy	Training framework, learning activities and mentorship coordination
The Northern Current	Editorial review, publication decisions and corrections
Participating school	Student selection, school liaison and assessment of the participation route

Students may complete the program with unpublished work. Publication and future admission to AAA are not guaranteed, and future enrolment is not required.

Six lessons. One practical portfolio.

A proposed six-week introductory sequence. A formal co-op placement must use the schedule, hours and learning plan agreed with the school; this outline does not replace those requirements.

WEEK	FOCUS	PRACTICAL ACTIVITY
1	Find a story	Pitch an approved sports or arts story; identify sources and access needs.
2	Interview	Prepare five questions; conduct a supervised interview; confirm names.
3	Verify	Check dates, scores and quotations; record evidence and uncertainties.
4	Capture	Gather stable video, clear audio and usable photographs with permissions.
5	Draft and check	Use AI with supplied evidence; correct unsupported or misleading wording.
6	Edit and reflect	Revise a complete piece after feedback; organize the final portfolio.

Assessment through demonstrated skills

The supervising adult reviews evidence, accuracy, permissions, communication and response to feedback. A student is ready for an independent approved assignment only after demonstrating these skills; completing lessons alone is insufficient.

Proposed portfolio completion chart



Targets for a proposed student portfolio, not completed student results.

From field reporting to publication

Gather

Original notes, footage

Verify

Names, facts, permissions

Draft

AI uses supplied evidence

Approve

Human editorial review

A complete submission contains

FIELD	WHAT TO PROVIDE
Event details	School, event, sport or subject, location, date and opponent where relevant
Verified facts	Confirmed score, names and a 100-150 word factual recap
Original evidence	Source links, interview notes and quotation timestamps
Footage	6-10 usable clips, approximately 5-15 seconds each, with clear filenames
Permissions	References confirming approved filming and public identification
Questions	Unresolved facts, sensitive issues and corrections needed

AI supports the draft; people remain accountable

AI may organize submitted material and prepare a draft. It must not invent events, scores, names or quotations. The student checks the draft against original evidence; an adult editor approves it. Missing information returns to the reporter for follow-up.

Approved production accounts and restricted evidence storage must be configured before participation. Student records, home addresses and unnecessary personal information must not be placed in AI prompts.

The weekly Hamilton highlight show

Working title: Hamilton School Sports Weekly. A combined 3-5 minute edition celebrates participating schools, with accurate results, original student footage and appropriate contributor credits.

Illustrative four-minute episode



- Open - 10 seconds
- School highlights - 180 seconds
- Results / arts - 30 seconds
- Credits - 20 seconds

Proposed allocation only. Adjust the runtime to available approved material.

PRODUCTION STAGE	PROPOSED RHYTHM
Assignment check-in	Monday: agree events, access and student responsibilities
Submission	Thursday, 5 p.m.: footage, recap, evidence and permission references
Editorial checks	Friday: verify facts, footage permissions and soundtrack clearance
Edit and review	Weekend: assemble episode; review the topic and final video with Kirk
Distribution	After approval: public YouTube edition and TNC embed; approved social extracts

Fair coverage, clear credits

Rotate sports, teams and featured schools across the season. Include girls' and boys' sports and less-covered teams. Keep a coverage log; do not add filler simply to equalize airtime. Use only permission-cleared audio and footage.

This is a proposed production schedule, not a co-op attendance timetable. No demonstration episode or student footage is included in this package.

Your program supervisor

Kirk Alfaro | Game Day Entertainment / The Northern Current

Kirk founded The Hoopla (TheHoop-la.com) in 2000, covering Ontario basketball through game recaps, scouting reports and news stories. An archived Michigan Insider article identifies him as the founder and quotes his assessment of Jevohn Shepherd, whom The Hoopla named Ontario Player of the Year.

He also previously practised as a licensed paralegal for five years, bringing extensive knowledge of public-space filming, trespass and related legal considerations. This is former professional experience; the program is an educational media placement.

Kirk will approve assignments, guide reporting and filming decisions, review evidence and student work, address concerns and communicate with school co-op teachers. Supervision hours, communication channels and backup arrangements will be agreed with each participating school.

Historical source: Michigan Insider article screenshots supplied by Kirk Alfaro, October 2026. The archived article describes The Hoopla's founding in 2000; a publication date is not visible in the supplied screenshots.

School approval and student support

The school and placement host agree how students will be supported before any assignment begins. Named supervision and availability are essential; AI cannot serve as the placement supervisor.

AREA	AGREEMENT NEEDED
People	Named placement host, adult supervisor, backup contact and school liaison
Time and place	Approved hours, locations, check-ins, travel arrangements and accessibility
Learning	Student learning plan, orientation, feedback and school evaluation process
Safety and coverage	School-approved safety procedures and applicable placement coverage arrangements
Consent and privacy	Parent/guardian process for under-18 participants; filming, interviews and external publication
Equipment and costs	Available devices, connectivity, storage and approved expenses
Escalation	Clear route for sensitive stories, complaints, safeguarding concerns and corrections

Two participation routes

School-approved co-op: assessed with the co-op teacher and board before offering school credit. Any SHSM alignment must be confirmed with the school; no designation is promised.

Extracurricular pilot: a flexible learning opportunity with no promised co-op credit or community-service hours. Proposed initial participation is unpaid; terms and expenses must be settled before activities begin.

Student field rules

Work only at approved events and locations. Obtain permission before recording interviews. Do not film changing rooms, private conversations or injury treatment. Confirm names before identification. Stop and contact the supervising adult if an assignment becomes sensitive or access is unsafe.

Ontario directs prospective co-op placement employers or supervisors to contact their local school board. Placement arrangements are established through that school/board process. [1, 2]

A measured launch

The initial invitation is a partnership discussion. School approval and available adult supervision determine how many places can actually open.

PHASE	ACTION	COMPLETION EVIDENCE
Prepare	Confirm host, supervisor, tools and school proposal	Named contacts and practical supervision plan
Discuss	Approach a public and a Catholic school first	School feedback and participation requirements
Agree	Complete learning, consent and placement arrangements	Approved route and documented responsibilities
Practise	Produce an unpublished practice episode	Verified footage, feedback and resolved issues
Launch	Publish an approved first edition	Final editorial and owner approval
Review	Assess learning and production capacity	Decision on remaining schools or another city

How success will be reviewed

Track participating schools, filled places, completed portfolios, permission completeness, factual corrections and student/school feedback. Audience views can be recorded, but are secondary to learning quality and accurate reporting. No audience or recruitment outcomes are forecast here.

Next school conversation

Could this placement fit your students' learning goals? Who should assess the proposal? What supervision, hours, access and coverage arrangements would your school require? Could we begin with up to two senior students?

Contact

Kirk Alfaro
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Reference and planning notes

This package describes the proposed Hamilton pilot. The figures of five schools, two places per school, ten students and a six-week introductory sequence are planning choices, not confirmed enrolment or school approvals.

Official reference sources

[1] Government of Ontario. Cooperative education (co-op) courses.
https://www.ontario.ca/page/cooperative-education-co-op-courses

[2] Government of Ontario. Policy/Program Memorandum 76A: workplace coverage arrangements.
https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-76a

School liaison discussion record

DISCUSSION FIELD	TO BE COMPLETED WITH SCHOOL
School / board	
School liaison / co-op teacher	
Proposed placement host / supervisor	
Participation route / proposed dates	
Hours / approved working locations	
Equipment / access / expenses	
Consent / filming / publication arrangements	
Next action / responsible person	

Use this record for institutional planning. Keep student personal information in restricted records. The operational arrangements above must be resolved before student assignments begin.