

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS – FILMS

Films may be used in the schools to enhance the delivery of instruction, may be recommended for viewing away from school or may be used for student entertainment. Films to be shown in class and recommended for viewing away from school for instructional purposes shall be selected by the teacher determining which films most effectively convey the content or concepts being developed in the given area of study. The wide variety of films available for use in schools includes many that may be inappropriate for the curriculum or for the students. In order to ensure the proper selection and use of films in the Forest Lake Schools, teachers shall use the following procedures.

1. Teachers shall use adequate, responsible selection criteria for choosing films to be used in the instructional program.
2. Teachers shall preview all films before showing them in class or recommending them for viewing away from school and determine the appropriateness of the film for the curriculum and the students.
3. Teachers shall find out what rating has been assigned to the film by the Motion Picture Association of America. These ratings are:

G General Audience. Film does not contain subject matter most parents are likely to consider objectionable, even for younger children.

PG Parental Guidance Suggested. Rating cautions parents that subject matter may be considered unsuitable for children and urges inquiry prior to attendance.

PG13 Parents Strongly Cautioned. Rating strongly urges parental guidance of children under the age of 13. Subject matter may be inappropriate for young children.

R Restricted. Adult subject matter. Children under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or an adult guardian.

NC17 No Children Under 17 Admitted

4. Teachers should exercise a high degree of judgment in selecting movies that may be deemed to be controversial or inappropriate. If there is a question of whether a film's content is controversial or inappropriate or if the film is not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America, the teacher must obtain pre-approval from the principal or designee to either show the film or recommend the film for viewing away from school. Should there be a difference of opinion between the teacher and principal as to the appropriateness of showing a film to students, the principal shall organize a committee of three teachers to view the film and make a decision on the film's validity in the instructional program.

5. In elementary schools and pre-school programs, G rated films are permitted to be shown without parental approval. PG rated films may be shown only with the prior approval of the principal or designee and prior written parental permission for every student who watches the film. PG13, R, and NC17 rated films may not be used at the elementary level.

6. In junior high schools, G and PG rated films are permitted to be shown without parental approval. PG13 rated films may be shown only with the prior approval of the principal or designee and prior written parental permission for every seventh grade student who watches the film. PG13 rated films are permitted to be shown without parental approval to all 8th and 9th grade students who are over 13 years of age. Eighth and ninth grade students who are under 13 years of age need prior approval of the principal or designee and prior written parental permission. R and NC17 rated films may not be used at the junior high school level.

7. In senior high schools, G, PG and PG13 rated films may be shown without parental approval. R rated films may be shown only if owned by the district or with prior written approval of the building Principal or designee. In addition the teacher must obtain written parental permission for every student who views the film. NC17 rated films may not be used at the senior high school level.

8. In those instances where a teacher(s) recommends films for viewing away from school the procedures outlined in five through seven above must be followed. Additionally, the teacher must provide the students with the rating and reason for rating of each film recommended.

9. Alternative Activity. Students must be given an opportunity to participate in an alternative educational activity of equal value if their parents do not give them permission to see a film.

10. Parents may contact their child's principal regarding concerns about films being shown in their child's school.

11. Copyright laws shall be followed in all instances.

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