

## VIDEO USE

It is the policy of the Board that teachers shall exercise good judgment in the selection of all materials used in the classroom. This is particularly important when supplemental materials such as movies/videos are used. The following are guidelines for the use of all types of movies/videos including educationally produced videos, streamed videos, commercial movies, and televised materials that have been recorded from television broadcasts.

The Ephrata School Board requires at least 10 school days of notice to all parents/guardians when a movie/video is going to be shown at school to students. At a minimum, notice should include title, date and time to be shown.

Ephrata School District will abide by the U.S. Copyright Law (U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, Section 110 (1)) which specifically provides a "classroom exemption" for viewing audio-visual material in the educational setting. Teachers and pupils may use rented, purchased, streamed or home-recorded video programs for instructional purposes only if the following requirements are satisfied:

1. All videos or clips of videos to be shown will be previewed and evaluated for educational quality by the classroom teacher prior to instructional use.
2. The programs are made legally.
3. The programs must be used in the course of face-to-face activities. The teacher must be able to identify specific objectives in the lesson to which the program relates, and how it assists in attaining these objectives within the adopted curriculum. All videos must be relevant to content standards and grade-level course curriculum objectives.
4. Programs may be used only in classrooms or similar places devoted to instructional activities.
5. Teachers will use professional judgment to carefully weigh the appropriate use of instructional time required for showing videos in whole or part.
6. Programs cannot be used for recreational or entertainment purposes.

### Grade Level Appropriateness

<b>Table 1 Approval/Permission Forms Needed (as noted by an *)</b>									
<b>Grade Level Rating</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>PG</b>	<b>PG-13 Edited</b>	<b>PG-13</b>	<b>R-rated Edited</b>	<b>R-rated</b>	<b>NC-17</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NR</b>
<b>Elem. K-5</b>	yes	*	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Professional judgment of the teacher and principal notification
<b>Middle 6-7</b>	yes	*	*	*	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	
<b>Middle 8</b>	yes	*	*	*	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	
<b>HS 9-12</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	*	*	Not shown	Not shown	

Edited versions of PG-13 and R-rated movies for the grade levels noted above will be ordered by the district and will be previewed in their entirety by the requesting teacher. Teachers will be allowed to show the edited version of a PG-13 or R-rated movie without obtaining parental permission as the reasons for the movie's rating will have been removed. However, if after previewing the edited version, the teacher feels the edited movie detracts from or fails to meet the educational objective, and if the teacher feels the originally rated movie would be more effective, then the Principal Permission and Parent Notification Procedure must be followed.

### Principal Permission and Parent Notification Procedure:

The showing of certain rated videos/excerpts at some grade levels requires approval of the building principal and parental permission. These are identified by an '\*' in Table 1. For those videos/excerpts requiring principal and parental approval, teachers will utilize the following procedure:

1. If PG or PG-13 films are to be shown at the elementary or middle levels or R-rated films are to be shown in entirety or in excerpt at the high school level, such use will be written into the course syllabus or curriculum document, with a letter sent to parents at the beginning of the class session. Said letter will be of a general nature letting parents know of the possibility of such film use, and will provide parents an opportunity to decide whether they desire to be notified prior to the showing of each film, or whether the parent trusts the judgment of the teacher and therefore does not need prior notification.
2. Teachers will preview an entire video if the whole video will be shown to a class. If clips will be shown, the teacher will preview the clips.
3. Course objectives and/or relevant content standards will be included on both the "Video Approval Form" (Form 1) and the "Parent Notification Regarding Classroom Use of PG, PG-13, R-rated Video Form." (Form 2)
4. The "Video Approval Form" will be completed and submitted to the building principal at least *twenty (20)* school days prior to the date of the intended showing.
5. Upon receiving a request, the building principal will approve or deny the request within five (5) school days based upon the following criteria:
  - a. The age, maturity, and sophistication of the group of students.
  - b. The movie or video's MPAA rating.
  - c. The movie or video's place of production (United States or foreign)
  - d. The presence of profanity, nudity, sexual content, prejudicial stereotypes, or violence.
  - e. The course curriculum and educational benefit of the movie or video.
  - f. The availability of alternate resources to accomplish educational objectives.
  - g. The feasibility of using a lawfully edited version or specific portions of the movie or video rather than in its entirety without seriously weakening the movie/video's educational value.
  - h. The student, teacher, and community interest in viewing the particular movie/video.
6. If denied by the principal, the teacher has the right to appeal the decision to an Instructional Advisory Committee consisting of members of the District Instructional Materials Committee. These members will be a principal, a teacher and a parent, appointed by the District Curriculum Director. Both the requesting teacher and the denying principal will have the opportunity to voice and discuss their reasons regarding the video. The Instructional Advisory Committee will approve or deny the request within five (5) school days based upon the above-mentioned criteria.
7. If approved, the teacher will notify parents at least ten (10) school days prior to the date of the intended showing. (Form 2)
8. If denied, the teacher has the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision will be made within five days and will be final.

#### **Options for Students Not Viewing Videos:**

If a student chooses not to watch a movie/video or does not turn in a signed Parental Permission Form, or a parent requests that his/her child not watch a movie/video, then the student will be provided a relevant, non-punitive, and time-appropriate alternative assignment which covers the same course objectives as the movie/video being shown. This alternative may be viewing the edited version in another location. Necessary resources will be provided, and a qualified, adult supervisor will be available to assist the student as needed. Students who choose not to view a movie/video can be offered an alternative check-in site for the class period during which it is shown. Teachers will, at the beginning of the year, clarify to the entire class that choosing not to watch a movie/video is an option and stress that there will be zero tolerance of ridiculing or belittling a student who has chosen this option.

- This approval process is valid only for the requesting department/grade level and must be followed one time for each rated film or excerpt used. Use by another department/grade level requires the approval process.
- Parental permission must be granted each time a PG, PG-13, or R-rated film is shown at the levels noted in Table 1.
- Parental permission forms will be kept on file with the requesting teacher for a period of one (1) year.
- Purchase of R-rated films will be accompanied by district purchase of an edited version of the same film, if available.