Gaithersburg High School

101 Education Blvd

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

August 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the 2014-2015 school year, students in the LFI class will be viewing films that are rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), but for which a waiver has been granted by the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs. The film has been identified as essential to the instructional process by advancing understanding of the following important concepts or processes:

* Functional life skills
* Social and communication skills
* Leisure
* Beginning / middle / end of a story
* Answering WH questions

For your information, the MPAA ratings are listed on the back of this letter.

Please indicate whether or not you grant permission for your child to view the film for the purposes described above by checking the appropriate box and signing below. If you do not grant permission, your child will be provided an alternative educational experience.

Thank you,

LFI Staff

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| Student Name: | | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |
| 🞎 I grant permission for my child to view the identified film. | | | | |
|  |  |  | | |
| 🞎 I do NOT grant permission for my child to view the identified film. | | | | |
|  |  |  | | |

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The following explanations of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) ratings are verbatim from the MPAA Web site,** [**http://www.mpaa.org/FlmRat\_Ratings.asp**](http://www.mpaa.org/FlmRat_Ratings.asp)**:**

**General Audiences (G)** “This is a film which contains nothing in theme, language, nudity and sex, violence, etc. that would, in the view of the Rating Board, be offensive to parents whose younger children view the film. The G rating is not a certificate of approval nor does it signify a children’s film. Some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation but they are common everyday expressions. No stronger words are present in G-rated films. The violence is at a minimum. Nudity and sex scenes are not present, nor is there any drug use content.”

**Parental Guidance Suggested (PG) “**This is a film which clearly needs to be examined by parents before they let their children attend. The label PG plainly states parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, but leaves the parent to make the decision. Parents are warned against sending their children, unseen and without inquiry, to PG-rated movies. The theme of a PG-rated film may itself call for parental guidance. There may be some profanity in these films. There may be some violence or brief nudity. However, these elements are not considered so intense as to require that parents be strongly cautioned beyond the suggestion of parental guidance. There is no drug use content in a PG-rated film. The PG rating, suggesting parental guidance, is thus an alert for examination of a film by parents before deciding on its viewing by their children.”

**Parents Strongly Cautioned (PG-13)** “is a sterner warning to parents, particularly when deciding which movies are not suitable for younger children. Parents, by the rating, are alerted to be very careful about the attendance of their under-teenage children. A PG-13 film is one which, in the view of the Rating Board, leaps beyond the boundaries of the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, or other contents, but does not quite fit within the restricted R category. Any drug use content will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. In effect, the PG-13 cautions parents with more stringency than usual to give special attention to this film before they allow their 12-year-olds and younger to attend. If nudity is sexually oriented, the film will generally not be found in the PG-13 category. If violence is too rough or persistent, the film goes into the R (restricted) rating. A film's single use of one of the harsher sexually derived words, though only as an expletive, shall initially require the Rating Board to issue that film at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive must lead the Rating Board to issue a film an R rating, as must even one of these words used in a sexual context.”

**Restricted –Under 17** **requires accompanying parent or adult guardian (R)** “In the opinion of the Rating Board, this film definitely contains some adult material. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about this film before they allow their children to accompany them. An R-rated film may include strong language, violence, nudity, drug abuse, other elements, or a combination of the above, so parents are counseled in advance to take this advisory rating very seriously.”

**No Children 17 and Under Admitted (NC-17) “**This rating declares that the Rating Board believes this is a film that most parents will consider patently too adult for their youngsters under 17. No children will be admitted. NC-17 does not necessarily mean obscene or pornographic; in the oft-accepted or legal meaning of those words. The Board does not and cannot mark films with those words. These are legal terms for courts to decide. The reasons for the application of an NC-17 rating can be excessive violence, sex, aberrational behavior, drug abuse or any other elements which, when present, most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for viewing by their children.”