



## VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL

TK-6 Grade, Free, Public Education

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### **BOARD POLICY INSTRUCTIONAL USE OF MOVIES AND OTHER MEDIA IN CLASSROOMS**

Vibrant Minds Charter School (VMCS) recognizes the potential educational value of using movies and other media as instructional tools in elementary school classrooms. This policy aims to provide comprehensive guidelines for the appropriate and responsible use of movies and other media to support scholar learning while ensuring the safety and well-being of all scholars.

#### **Educational Purpose**

Movies and other media may be shown in elementary school classrooms or the school for educational purposes that support and enhance the curriculum. The content should be relevant to the learning objectives and age-appropriate for elementary school scholars. Teachers are encouraged to use media as a tool to enhance scholar engagement and understanding of complex concepts. However, media should not be used for recreational purposes during the instructional day and in the after-school program since it is not a productive use of instructional time, and it is not in keeping with copyright laws. There always needs to be a curricular connection.

#### **Age Appropriateness**

Teachers and school staff must ensure that the content of the media is suitable for the age and maturity level of the scholars. For rated media, a G rating is the expectation. For unrated media, content that includes violence, explicit language, and/or inappropriate themes should not be shown in the classroom. It is the responsibility of the teacher to preview all media content to ensure its suitability for the classroom setting.

If on occasion a PG rated movie is deemed to be instructionally beneficial, a "Movie/Media Permission Form" must be completed by the teacher and signed by the parent/guardian. Within the form, a description of the instructional value must be indicated by the teacher, and the director or assistant director must sign-off on the form before it is sent to parents/guardians. If permission is not given, then the scholar needs to be provided an instructional activity that is of equal value.

## **Copyright Compliance**

Teachers can show movies in a classroom without copyright infringement if certain criteria are met, as outlined in the "Face-to-Face Teaching Exemption" of the U.S. Copyright Act:

- The movie is used as an essential part of the required curriculum
- The teacher or instructor is present and actively teaching
- The institution is an accredited, nonprofit educational institution
- The showing takes place in a classroom setting with only enrolled scholars in attendance
- The movie is "lawfully" made and used, meaning the teacher has not duplicated or streamed a copy in violation of Fair Use or without the copyright holder's permission
- The movie is not used for extra-curricular, reward, recreation, or before or after school use unless permission is obtained from the copyright holder
- The movie is not used for fund-raising, and no admission should be charged

Unauthorized use of copyrighted materials is prohibited, and teachers should model ethical behavior in their use of media resources. For example, streaming Amazon Prime, Disney+, ESPN+, HBO, Hulu, or Paramount+ in the classroom is not allowed.

## **Supervision**

A teacher or other school staff member must be present during the viewing of media to provide guidance, context, and facilitate discussion related to the content. Teachers should actively engage students during the viewing to enhance learning outcomes and promote critical thinking skills. It is important for teachers to create a supportive and inclusive environment during media viewing.

## **Screening Process**

Teachers should carefully review and select media to be shown in the classroom to ensure that it aligns with educational standards and supports the curriculum. Media selections should be vetted for accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness. Teachers are encouraged to seek input from colleagues and administrators when selecting media for classroom use.

## **Limitations**

The frequency and duration of media viewing in the classroom should be limited to ensure that it does not replace other instructional activities or detract from scholar engagement in learning. Media should be used as a supplement to classroom instruction, not as a primary teaching tool. Teachers should provide opportunities for scholars to reflect on and discuss the media content after viewing.

## **Evaluation and Reflection**

Teachers are encouraged to reflect on the effectiveness of using media in the classroom and its impact on scholar learning. Regular assessment of the use of media can help teachers

make informed decisions about its continued use and potential modifications to enhance scholar engagement and understanding.

### **Compliance**


All teachers and school staff are expected to follow this policy and any related procedures established by VMCS. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disciplinary action. Professional development opportunities may be provided to support teachers in implementing this policy effectively.

### **Review and Revision**

This policy shall be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance to current educational practices. Any necessary revisions will be made in consultation with stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and administrators. Feedback from scholars may also be considered in the review process to ensure that the policy meets the needs of all stakeholders.

Adopted: August 21, 2024

Amended:

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL</b>  <b>TK-6 Grade, Free, Public Education</b>  <b>412 W. Carl Karcher Way</b>  <b>Anaheim, California 92801</b>  <b>Office: 714-563-2390</b>  <b>FAX: 714-563-2401</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.vibrantminds.us/">https://www.vibrantminds.us/</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/VMCharterSchool/">https://www.facebook.com/VMCharterSchool/</a></p>
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**MOVIE/MEDIA PARENT PERMISSION FORM**

Dear VMCS Parent/Guardian:

Our class is planning to watch a movie as part of our educational program. We believe this movie has valuable educational content and aligns with our curriculum. To ensure that all scholars have the opportunity to participate, we need your permission to show a PG-rated movie to your scholar.

**Details of the Movie**

- Title of the Movie:
- Date of Proposed Viewing:
- Time of Proposed Viewing:
- Rating and Reason for Rating: PG because of
- Instructional Reason/Value for Selection:

**Additional Information**

- The movie has been reviewed by the teacher and deemed appropriate for the scholars in the targeted grade level.
- Because any movie/media may not be suitable for all scholars, we encourage parents to review the content beforehand if concerned.

Thank you for your support!  
*Teacher's Name*  
*Grade X*

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Scholar's Name:

- [ ] Yes, I give permission for my scholar to watch the PG-rated movie.
- [ ] No, I do not give permission for my scholar to watch the PG-rated movie. I understand that an alternative meaningful instructional activity will be provided for my scholar during the movie.

Comments or Concerns:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Signature:

Date:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Date Draft Letter Received by Director/Assistant Director:

Draft Letter Reviewed By: