

Filmmaking ~ Dixie Middle School

Teacher: Mrs. Justina Arvig **Email:** justina.arvig@washk12.org

OVERVIEW: In this course, students will gain hands-on skills using digital cameras, editing software, lighting, and sound equipment as they write, produce, and edit their own narratives and documentary projects. Student productions will be highlighted at the end of every unit, with a red carpet day and film preview. Together, we will explore film in a variety of ways.

DMS STUDENT HANDBOOK -

<https://dms.washk12.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/111/2021/08/Dixie-Middle-Student-Handbook-2021-1.pdf>

This course has a prerequisite of Film and Media Arts. If you did not take the prerequisite course, then it is your responsibility to research and now these items to successfully complete this course:

- [Camera angles](#)
- [Camera movements](#)
- [Camera shot styles](#)
- [Film jobs](#)
- [Storyboards](#)
- [Loglines](#)
- [9 sentence story structure](#)
- [Acting for the camera](#)
- [Basic video editing](#)

This course has a \$20.00 fee that can be paid at the DMS finance window.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the choices made by directors, cinematographers, editors, and others in creating a film.
- Develop an appreciation for the collaborative nature of moviemaking.
- Demonstrate the technical and emotional adjustments required for working in front of the camera.
- Explore how filmmakers use a variety of camera angles and movements to create an emotional connection in their films.

COURSE COVERAGE: This course will cover Production Processes, including Pre Production, Production, and Post Production throughout the school year. Students will have the opportunity to create their own films in class and also analyze Hollywood films.

ASSIGNMENTS: Students will complete assignments on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. Daily assignments will include notes on class lectures, definition of vocabulary items, and brief hands-on exercises to build students' skill level. Weekly assignments will include benchmark assignments incorporating daily lessons, such as a script, storyboard, or captured video. Monthly assignments will be larger, final projects incorporating several benchmarks, such as a completed music video.

HOMEWORK: Time and equipment to complete all assignments will be provided for in class. All assignments will be on canvas.

LATE/MISSING WORK: For each class day an assignment is late, a deduction of 5 points will be applied.

Late Work Exceptions: In cases of documented medical emergencies or other extraordinary circumstances, students may request an extension for late work without penalty.

GRADING: Much of the time in this class will be spent working in groups or on individual projects. Students will be expected to remain on task during this time and time utilization will be monitored and graded as an assignment. Each assignment, including attention and behavior during film viewing, will be given a point value: 90 – 100% = A 80 – 90 % = B 70 – 80 % = C 70 – 60 = D below 50 % = F

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

In alignment with Utah's cellphone policy ([SB 178](#)), cellphones are **prohibited in class at all times** except on **designated project days** in our Film & Media Arts class, where students may use their personal devices for **educational purposes such as filming and editing**, under direct teacher supervision. These dates will be communicated in advance to both parents and administration. Students will wear a film class lanyard, work only in designated filming/editing zones, and must remain on task. While school-owned equipment is available, it is limited and less efficient for this type of work. **Misuse of personal devices** (e.g., texting, social media) will result in immediate loss of privileges.

CLASSROOM RULES: The five classroom rules are based on student respect and responsibility:

BE PROMPT: Arrive on time and be in your seat.

BE PREPARED: Bring necessary materials and completed assignments.

BE PRODUCTIVE: Stay on task and actively participate.

BE POLITE: Be kind, courteous, and use appropriate language and behavior.

BE PERSISTENT: Keep working, even when faced with challenges.

Disobeying any class rule will lead to 1) a verbal warning, 2) in-class isolation, and 3) communication with a parent and referral to Assistant Principal

All concepts will be illustrated through film clips and videos. Throughout this process, we will view, analyze, and discuss a number of short scenes and complete films, representing the highest achievement of the art form.

FILM RATINGS AND PARENTAL CONSENT:

In accordance with Washington School District policy (4240), a list of films with their ratings will be provided. Written permission from parents is required for students to view each film in class.

Film watched in whole or part (films that are highlighted are rated PG13)

Pixar Series Indiana Jones Series Lord of the Rings Trilogy Jaws King Kong (original and remake) War of the Worlds (Original and remake) Planet of the Apes (Original and remake) Up Explorer: The Last Tepui Back to the Future Hugo Kubo Jumanji Soul	Wall-E Ratatouille Monster Inc. Second Hand Lions Napoleon Dynamite Soul Surfer Clouds Hidden Figures Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (Original and remake) Journey to the Center of the Earth (Original and remake) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Toy Story Star Wars Series	Film Spark Documentary Videos • Alice Inside • The Anthropologist • Chasing Ice • Fed Up • Focus Forward • Maiden Trip • Racing Extinction • Sepideh • Slingshot • Sonic Sea • Underwater Dreams Behind the Scenes YouTube Crash Course Series The making of Star Wars Tinā (Mother) Onward
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Occasionally, we may choose to watch a film that isn't on the original approved list. If that happens, I will send out an email with the film title and details to request your permission beforehand.

Note to Parents/Guardians

I am available by email or phone if you need to talk to me. I will also be glad to set up an appointment to meet with you if the need arises. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this course. I am looking forward to working with you and your child to make this a great year!

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. Arvig

Student printed name _____

Parent printed name _____

Parent signature _____