

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your 7th grade student is beginning to study the Civil War in Social Studies class. During this unit, the students will have the opportunity to view a few films portraying events from the Civil War. I will first be showing the students clips from the movie “Gods and Generals.” It is a film based upon the events of the war leading up to the battle of Gettysburg, and taken from the novel Gods and Generals by Jeff Shaara. The film shows the battles of Bull Run and Antietam, as well as other early clashes. The students will get an inside look at the motivations of major players in the war, such as Robert E. Lee, “Stonewall” Jackson, and Joshua Chamberlain. The film demonstrates the bravery and strife of a nation at war with itself.

Next, the topics of slavery and the role of African-Americans in the war will be covered. In class, the students will be viewing the film “Glory.” It is a true story about the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, one of the first all African American troops in the Civil War, and is based off of the primary source writings of their leader, Colonel Shaw. This group led the attack on Fort Wagner and suffered heavy losses. It is a fantastic and heart-wrenching movie that truly shows the reasons why we fought this war.

While this film is a wonderful period piece, it is also very realistic when portraying the events of the Civil War. There will be battle scenes, but it is an older film, so they will not be as graphic as the war movies made today. Also, a few times throughout the film, there is the use of the word “nigger”. This word holds a very negative connotation for us today, as it did back then, but was still a word often used in conversation. In the film, it comes up in heated moments between officers or soldiers when arguing about the issue of slavery and fighting for the Union Army. It is never used inappropriately or out of context during the film. I believe it is an important part of the film because it allows the students to fully understand the prejudice and discrimination that African-Americans faced in those days. I will be discussing the usage of the word and its connotation with the students ahead of time.

As a parent, it is of course your priority to censor what your student is allowed to view. Please complete the permission form below and return it with your student by **Thursday, March 21st**. Any student who does not return the permission form, or whose parents do not wish them to view the film, will be given an alternate activity during this time.

Student Name _____ Homeroom _____

YES, my student may view the films.

NO, my student may not view the films.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____