

February 11, 2011

Dear parents,

As I'm sure you know, your child and the other students in English I Honors are finishing up their first encounter with Shakespeare, studying *Romeo and Juliet*. As the capstone to the unit, I like to show a version of the play. It's a time to reap the rewards of conquering Shakespeare's difficult play, as well as compare our in-class directorial decisions with those of a professional.

I would like to show Baz Luhrmann's 1996 film adaptation, *Romeo + Juliet*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. This is my primary choice of film versions for a number of reasons, but primarily I love how it shows the truly timeless nature of Shakespeare's work through it's contemporary setting.

The dates for this showing will be February 22 and 23.

The film is rated PG-13, primarily due to two scenes. The first is a short depiction of drug use: one of the characters takes an unnamed pill and suffers the consequences. While the scene is not overtly condemnatory of drug use, it certainly does not promote or glamorize it. The second reason for the PG-13 rating comes from act 3 scene 5, which includes two sexually suggestive camera shots. The two shots together are approximately 30 seconds, and I will be turning off the television during those brief moments.

Due to the rating, I must obtain not only Dr. Mark's approval (see initials at the bottom of the page) but also yours. I will have an alternative assignment in another room if you prefer your child not to view this video. It will in no way affect your child's grade.

Regards,

Gary Scott

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<input type="checkbox"/>	YES my child has permission to view <i>Romeo + Juliet</i> during their English class.
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO, I would prefer my child to do the alternate assignment within another classroom

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_