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Dear Film 9 Students & Families:

I hope you’ve all had a wonderful and restful summer vacation, I want to welcome you all to The Cinema School and Film 9.

9th Grade Film is a year-long course that focuses on understanding the basic operations and functions of a digital single lens reflex camera and the manipulation of its settings to achieve a specific result that will culminate in a stop motion film.

Students will learn about photographic elements of art and principles of design, composition, and lighting. They will explore the history of photography, learning about its scientific and technological developments, important innovators in the field, and relevance within diverse cultural contexts. Students will write and speak about aesthetic, technical and expressive qualities in a photograph, learning to critique their own and others' work. Students will learn image techniques and digital manipulation using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premiere.

Students will learn how to manage and creatively alter digital images as well as critically analyze the use of visual media as a means of communication in our society today.

They will be provided a greater level of autonomy, expected to pursue their own interests and develop an individual voice. Students will explore the significance of photography within the larger context of the art word, and learn about the critical and varied application it has to filmmaking in the modern working world.

*Why Film?* It’s a question I hear in various forms from some of you when you’re frustrated, or when you’re genuinely questioning the validity of instruction in this subject. Why do we consider this an important subject for you to learn and base this school around? By examining films, the ones that really matter to you and capture both what your life is like, and also what you want your life to ***be*** like, we hope that you will learn how to write and conduct yourselves in ways that will help you mold your **reality**. When you are writing a film, you are creating a universe; you are ***godlike***. Writing a story lets us create scenarios we’d like to be in, have confrontations we can’t openly have, speak the way we wish we and others could speak, and above all, when we’re at our best, bring focus on the problems we want solved, while imagining their solutions.

Unlike *most* other types of art, filmmaking is a collaborative medium and requires us to learn how to work well with others. This is a skill that you’ll have to use throughout your adult lives. You won’t always like the people you work with personally, but you’ll have a cause or project you care about and will have to learn how to use the strengths of each person on your team to bring it to fruition. This is the very essence of leadership.

The focus of the beginning of this semester is on acquiring the necessary skills to analyze film. By learning how films are structured, you will, in turn, learn how to structure and craft your own stories.

I hope you will keep this idea of effective and meaningful communication not only through this unit and the next, but also throughout your lives. If you find yourself struggling with some of the tasks we’ll be tackling this year, that’s a good thing! It tells me that you care and that you’re thinking critically. I consider this letter my promise to you that I will be open to your thoughtful feedback and appreciative of your work. All I ask in return is that when you come to this class, you come ready to listen and get to the day’s work. I will do my best to make this work worth your time and effort.

**Outline of the Fall Semester**

* Unit 0: Course and technology overview
* Unit 1: Using Shots and Angles and Photoshop
* Unit 2: Plot Structures and writing a stop motion narrative
* Unit 3 – Intro to Stop Motion and Pre-production

**Shooting & Editing:**

Throughout the first 4 units, and through most of the Spring semester, we will have regular shooting challenges where we will review, practice, and learn new skills with the Canon T3i you learned last year. These shoots will require excellent time management, planning, and teamwork.

Some of these projects will also require editing, using Adobe Premiere, in order for us to continue honing your skills with this powerful and professional editing software.

**Outline of the Spring Semester**

* Unit 1: Introduction to the DSLR and Exposure
* Unit 2: Introduction to Composition
* Unit 3 – Pre-Production-Building a Set and Characters
* Unit 4- Production
* Unit 5-Post Production

Throughout the second semester, students will focus on applying their work in analysis, visual communication, collaboration and photography in order to plan, build, shoot, edit and promote their stop-motion films.

**Grading Policy**

**20% -** Performance Tasks – Including Shoots, Edits, Screenplays, and Screenplay Format, as well as Directing & Blocking Exercises.

**30%-** Assessments: Includes several “Do Now” quizzes throughout each Unit. Be prepared!

**35%-** Classwork and Participation: Includes class discussions/participation, preparedness, conduct, completeness of viewing sheets and class activities.

**15% -** Homework: I don’t assign much, which is why completion is essential.

| ALL classwork, projects and class notes are posted in Google Classroom  Students may, at any time within the semester, return to a previous lesson to add enhancements and receive a better grade on any lesson or project. |
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