

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Introduction to Filmmaking! This is a hands-on class, which means all work will be done at school unless the student chooses to film or edit at home. Students DO NOT need their own computer or video camera for this class, those are provided at school. However, many students will choose to use their own once the class gets rolling.

We will be working on Mac computers, learning how to produce short films with a program called Final Cut Pro. If you're fortunate enough to have a Mac at home with video editing software, your child may complete whatever he/she *chooses* to at home. Let it be clear though, I provide plenty of time for all work and projects to be completed during school hours.

Here's something you'll be happy to hear....*there isn't any homework given in this class!* If your child is absent from school, you can check my website's Daily Agenda link to see what we're doing. Most of our daily warm-ups can be completed at home and emailed to me, however the work we do in Filmmaking requires video editing software that most people don't have at home. So, I usually cannot provide work for a student to complete if they're absent for an extended period of time. I am very flexible with make-up work though. I accept ALL late work within each 6 week grading period. Once the grading period closes, I will not accept late work anymore. Of course, only partial points are given depending upon how late the work is submitted. If there's an excused absence, points will not be deducted.

You can check grades online at <http://abi.murrieta.k12.ca.us/parent/>. All students have a passcode to access their accounts. Contact your counselor if you need yours. This is a projects-based class. Some of our projects will take 2-3 weeks to complete, so you may not see grades getting updated during that time. Please feel free to email me if you're curious about your child's progress.

I encourage students to work with their own pictures and video footage anytime possible throughout the year. I will assign specific video topic/assignments throughout the year, but I allow students to swap out any topic I assign in place of editing some of their own footage. If there's something special taking place with your family or friends and you'd like your child to film it and create a video of it, they can do that in this class. I encourage that because students put more effort into making something for themselves.

We will start the year off with an "It's My Life" project. I want students to bring in at least 30 images from home of themselves, family and friends. We'll use these pictures to make a slideshow in Photos (edit them a bit in Photos) and experiment with still images in our video editing programs. They can save them to a flash drive, or upload them to a site like Dropbox, Photobucket, Google Drive, etc. They will receive points just for getting the photos here!

I am looking forward to a great year! It will be fun...your child will like this class.

Respectfully,

Ella Harrison