Oak Park High School

Dear Parents of "Invitation to Psychology" Students:

Our class is beginning to cover some of the most integral components in the course: intelligence, creativity, abnormal psychology, and social psychology. We have the opportunity to gain some added insight through the use of five feature films during the course of the semester. The films will be shown to clarify information and to hopefully dispel some of the myths surrounding these intriguing, yet somewhat unsettling parts of human psychology. The subject matter being covered and the method by which it is presented are both very mature and strong in content, as is appropriate in a college preparatory course in psychology.

If, after reading the film descriptions and course content correlations on the reverse side of this clearance form, you would prefer that your student NOT view one, any, or all of these films, please sign below indicating non-clearance and return this form. Your student will be provided an alternate activity for credit completion, to replace the viewing of the film(s) and accompanying activities. If your student IS given permission to view all of the films, please sign below indicating clearance and return this form, as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

Sincerely,

Kimberlee J. Galbreath
Social Science Department
(818) 735-3300, ext. #108
kgalbreath@opusd.k12.ca.us

Student Name: _____ **FORM DUE BY:**

• My student may watch all of the films selected:

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

• Please excuse my student from viewing film(s) #:

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

I understand my student will be provided with and responsible for an alternate activity during the time of the film(s).

Film #1- **Little Man Tate;** 1 hour, 39 minutes; rating = PG

Description: Jodie Foster made her directorial debut in this tale of a child prodigy's search for social acceptance. Fred Tate (Adam Hann-Byrd) is a precocious fourth grader who has no problem with the most complex mathematical problems or in banging out a Rachmaninoff concerto on the piano, but is totally inept at playing baseball or dealing with children his own age. His mother Dede (Jodie Foster) is a cocktail waitress who acts more like a child than Fred, but cares passionately about her son. Fred comes to the attention of child psychologist Jane Grierson (Dianne Wiest), who runs a summer camp for child prodigies called Odyssey of the Mind. She invites Fred to attend the summer session, creating a rift between Fred and Dede.

Content: Examines IQ and creativity, emotional growth, maturity, social interaction, interpersonal relationships, and developmental and educational psychology.

Film #2- **As Good As It Gets;** 2 hours, 19 minutes; shown; rating PG-13

Description: Academy Award winning film starring Jack Nicholson as Melvin Udall, and obsessive-compulsive novelist with Manhattan's meanest mouth. But when his neighbor, Simon, (Greg Kinnear), is hospitalized, Melvin is forced to babysit Simon's dog. And that unexpected act of kindness-along with waitress Carol Connelly, (Helen Hunt)-helps put Melvin back in the human race.

Content: Explores personality disorders, including obsessive-compulsive disorder and anti-social personality; in addition, explores interpersonal relationships and stereotyping.

Film #3- **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**; 2 hours, 9 minutes; rating = R… (due to graphic language)

Description: Based on the novel by Ken Kesey, winner of five Academy Awards, and voted one of the ten greatest American films of all time, the film stars Jack Nicholson as a free spirit and tells the story of his adventures in a mental ward.

Content: Exploration of mental disorders and psychological institutionalization.

Film #4- **The Breakfast Club**; 1 hour, 32 minutes; rating = R… (due to graphic language)

Description: Produced and directed by John Hughes, the film addresses the important issues of socialization and demonstrates methods of coping more effectively with social development. Evidence is clearly displayed supporting the hypothesis that all individuals deal with the same problems, no matter who they might be; individuals are not alone in dealing with social concerns.

Content: Portrayal and exploration of the innate need for social interaction.

Film #5- **Lean on Me**; 1 hour, 49 minutes; rating = PG-13

Description: Stars Morgan Freeman in the fact-based story of high school principal Joe Clark of Eastside High in Paterson, New Jersey. Brought in as a last hope to save the school from the troubles besetting it, he encountered both heavy resistance and strong support, as he emerged as a national symbol of tough-love education and even appeared on the cover of TIME magazine.

Content: Examines group dynamics, attitudes, prejudice, density and crowding, and urban decline and renewal.