

Piedmont Unified School District

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**To:** Board of Education

**From:** Randy Booker, Superintendent  
Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent

**Date:** January 26, 2022

**Re:** **First Reading of Film as Literature Course Proposal**

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**I. SUPPORT INFORMATION**

Over the past three years, several new elective courses have been developed in content areas heavily weighted in STEAM. The English department is proposing that a new elective course be offered to students in grades 11 and 12: Film as Literature.

Although high school humanities courses traditionally have included the occasional film or film clip as part of the curriculum, the material is generally used to supplement other material. Rarely, if ever, is film or video explicitly examined as a piece of art, let alone examined critically as a product of our culture. Exploring film takes time that is not available in the college preparatory English classes given the number of required standards that need to be taught.

Learning to read visual media is a critical skill in our modern digital culture, and a natural progression from classic literary analysis. In the Film as Literature course, students will use the literary terminology and analytical techniques learned in their English classes to critically explore the movies that have contributed to their social and intellectual identities. Students will watch and critically analyze film techniques, screenwriting choices, sound design, and directorial decisions, and use what they have learned to produce their own media.

**II. DISCUSSION: Film as Literature High School Elective Course Proposal**

Piedmont High School staff will present the course proposal for Film as Literature. This is a first reading and Board members will review and discuss the content of the course proposal.