

## FILM FESTIVAL 2017



**Venue** – Seward High School Auditorium (Snack shack will be open, bring \$\$)

**Date** – Wednesday, March 8

**Time:** 12:30-2:30

**Entries:** Age Groups: Grades K-4, Grades 5-8, Grades 9-12

**Theme: ENTERTAIN US: Make Us Laugh, Teach Us**

Something, Tell Us A Story, or Try Something Novel

**Time Limit:** 4 minutes

**Other:** No copyrighted material, Appropriate for school use,  
Cite work in credits

**Submissions:** District Film Festival Shared Folder (See contact)

**Max Entries per School:** 4

**File Name:** school-title

**Deadline:** February 28 @ 6 pm

**Contact:** Let Mrs. Dunn know if you are working on a movie!

# Movie Making Guidelines

**Story/Concept:** Aim for a unique, original concept and an organized, balanced, logical story. Avoid problems with organization, pacing, timing, or confusing/irrelevant content.

**Acting/Voice:** Actors should stay “in character,” speak clearly, and use effective body language, facial expressions, volume, and voice inflection. Avoid monotone voice, mumbling, speaking too quietly, and turning away from the camera.

**Title/Credits:** Include an opening title image and closing credits. Consider text size, font, colors, alignment, effects, and animation. Avoid missing credits or errors with editing/spelling/punctuation or timing.

**Editing:** Pay attention to overall timing, smooth transitions, relevant effects, and controlled visual and audio effects. Avoid volume fluctuations, leaving in unintended/irrelevant footage, and going beyond time limits.

**Visual Composition:** Try to intentionally arrange or set up the visual layout and focus of your shots, such as backgrounds, close-ups, long shots, panoramas, low and high angles, tracking, POV (from a character’s point of view), and zoom shots. Avoid random/unplanned shot composition with distractions behind or next to your focus.

**Camera Technique:** Try to have smooth/controlled/stable filming, varied shot composition, intentional camera angles, and challenging/moving shots. Avoid camera work that is sloppy, shaky, jerky, unstable, or otherwise distracting.

**Lighting:** Your goal is controlled, effective, and intentional lighting. Avoid dark shadows on faces, bright reflections, distracting backlighting, or unintentional contrasts.

**Audio:** Aim for clear voices and appropriate volume of sound effects and music. Avoid extreme volume shifts, static/interference, and background noises such as wind, traffic, or voices/sounds that should not be in your film.

**Special Effects:** Consider including visual and audio effects that enhance your film. Effects created during filming might include makeup, sound effects, fake weather, voice distortion, unique lighting, reflections, size distortion due to perspective, or fake motions like flying or defying gravity. Effects added during editing might include filters, color balance/brightness/saturation, transitions, soundtrack, narration, and pan/zoom effects. Avoid random or distracting effects that don’t improve your film.

**Overall Effect:** Your overall goal is clear evidence of craftsmanship, excellent attention to detail, outstanding apparent effort, and a truly memorable and impressive film. Take the time during planning, production, and editing so that your finished film shows off your creativity and talents and captures your audience’s attention!

**Note:** If you’re hoping to make your movie really special, remember that you can research many filming and editing techniques online and experiment with them as you plan and produce your film!