

January 27th, 2014



Dear Parents,

We are studying an introductory unit dealing with the topic of genetics. This is an exciting unit of study that has many far-reaching connections to our everyday life including medicine, disease, cloning, family trees, and heredity. As the science and technology of genetics continues to advance at blinding speeds, studying genetics starting here in middle school will provide our students with an essential knowledge base that is sure to serve them in the future.

As a culminating event in our study of genetics, we will begin showing the movie ***Gattaca*** in science class on February 5th (A day) and February 6th (B day) and will finish it on February 7th (Friday). This movie, made in 1997, is rated PG-13 for brief violent images, language, and some sexuality. We will skip the scene that includes any sexuality. This movie will provide a valuable educational experience that generates much in-class discussion and debate about the merits of genetic engineering in humans.

Here is a brief synopsis on the movie: *"In the not-too-distant future, a less-than-perfect man wants to travel to the stars. Society has categorized Vincent Freeman as less than suitable given his genetic make-up and he has become one of the underclass of humans that are only useful for menial jobs. To move ahead, he assumes the identity of Jerome Morrow, a perfect genetic specimen who is a paraplegic as a result of a car accident. With professional advice, Vincent learns to deceive DNA and urine sample testing. Just when he is finally scheduled for a space mission, his program director is killed and the police begin an investigation, jeopardizing his secret."*

Any students that do not watch the movie will be given an alternate written assignment to complete in a separate setting. Please let us know of any concerns.

Sincerely,

Katherine Jones
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Crystal Wilson
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***NOTE:** If any **Cheetah parents** have concerns then don't hesitate to contact either **Mrs. Jones** or **Ms. Wilson**.

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RETURN THIS FORM BELOW THE DOTTED LINE TO YOUR SCIENCE TEACHER.

My child _____ **does NOT** have permission to watch **Gattaca**.
(Print student first and last name)

(Parent signature and date)