

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Student Name: _____

As part of the Leader in Me Program, students have been learning about the principles of the Seven Habits and changing paradigms. To serve as both a “sharpening the saw” activity and a learning experience, the 8th grade will be watching and discussing several movies

Some movies may be rated PG13 (for some language) therefore each student is required to have a parent signature in order to watch the movie. A Family Movie Guide is provided below for more information. Students who do not return a signed slip will be given an alternative activity. If you give your child permission to watch these movies, please fill out the slip below and have your child return it to their LIM teacher as soon as possible.

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter _____ to watch the movies with a rating of PG-13 at Holly Middle School.

Parent Signature

Date

.....
Family Movie Review from <http://www.movieguide.org/reviews/the-pursuit-of-happyness.html>

PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

Summary: THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS, starring Will Smith and his real-life son, is based on the true life and struggles of Chris Gardner as he attempts to create a better life for himself and his young son. One of the most inspirational movies of the year, the movie puts forth a strong message about a parent’s commitment to their child and that with hard work and a belief in one’s self, great things can be accomplished.

Content: (CC, BBB, CapCapCap, Ro, RH, LL, V, N, A, D, M) Very strong moral worldview with strong pro-family content in a redemptive portrayal of a positive father figure, plus very strong capitalist content showing the importance of working hard and some possible Romantic elements and some revisionist history for dramatic effect; 16 to 19 obscenities (including one "f" word); light violence is present in the form of parents yelling at each other and one short scuffle between two men; no sexual content; a woman is shown in a bra and slip getting ready for work, upper male nudity as a man’s chest is briefly shown in the shower, and a child is shown in his underwear once jumping on a bed in playfulness, and once being bathed by his father; light alcohol use; smoking; and, two instances of property being stolen from the main character that he later reclaims. MOVIEGUIDE® advises caution for young children due to some foul language.

In Brief: THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS is the inspiring true-life story of Chris Gardner. Chris, played with brilliant passion by Will Smith, is a man struggling to make ends meet in the 1980s. One day, a chance encounter sets Chris in motion to change his life for both he and his son. Chris takes a stressful internship at a highly competitive stock brokerage. Chris works hard with the belief that it will pay off. His wife buckles under the pressures, however, and leaves the family. Soon, father and son find themselves homeless. They spend their nights sleeping in shelters, busses and, at the low point, a public restroom. Through it all, the relationship between father and son is strengthened, sweetened and, even in the middle of dire circumstances, full of love and trust.

Movies like PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS do not come along very often. The movie not only shows that it is possible to achieve the American Dream through hard work, it also shows that we can build strong families through commitment, love and trust, regardless of the circumstances. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS is one of the most inspirational movies of the year.

OCTOBER SKY

Content: Moderately moral, pro-family worldview with one brief shot of people closing a prayer with "in Christ's name" & one "Thank God" uttered; 32 obscenities & 3 profanities, plus a couple minor vulgarities; mild violence with rockets exploding & a couple chasing people or hitting building, man shoves other man away from minor coal cave-in, & man dies from major off-screen cave-in, plus father & son argue; no sex but boy tells another boy he'll now have trouble losing his virginity & teenage couple sits in park car in one brief shot but are interrupted; upper male nudity; alcohol use & boys use moonshine to keep rockets from exploding; smoking; some pagan elements; and, labor unrest & father shows favoritism toward one son over another but disfavored son shows rebellious character that is not really rebuked, though the movie argues in favor of reconciliation and mutual support among family members.

Summary: Based on a true story, the movie tells how a West Virginia teenager named Homer in 1957 starts building home-made rockets with his friends so that they can eventually win a prize at the state science fair. Homer's father is the major obstacle the "rocket boys" face in their goal to escape the confined world of their mining hometown. The movie's pro-family, moral worldview is marred by more than 30 obscenities and one line of dialogue about teenage premarital sex that is not rebuked.

Review: Joe Johnston, the director of *ROCKETEER* and *JUMANJI*, has a knack for filming old-fashioned adventure stories. His new movie, *OCTOBER SKY*, displays the same talent, but Johnston adds to this ability a knack for old-fashioned family drama as well. The only modern aspect to this movie seems to be the amount and kind of foul language. Based on the autobiography of Homer Hickam, *OCTOBER SKY* begins with the residents of Coalfield, a mining town in West Virginia, filled with awe like the rest of the world when the Soviet Union launches the first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957. No one is more fascinated by the event than Homer Hickam, the young teenage son of John Hickam, the foreman of the local mine. An aimless youth who is not good enough to get a football scholarship like his brother, Homer decides to start making his own rockets. He enlists the help of his two friends, O'Dell and Roy Lee, but they only manage to damage his mom's beautiful white picket fence. Homer decides to enlist the help of the class nerdy intellectual, Quentin, much to the chagrin of his buddies. Homer's enthusiasm is infectious, however, and the boys begin a rocket building program, egged on by their teacher Miss Riley, who thinks the boys have a shot at winning a prize at the state science fair. Homer even manages to enlist the help of a couple of the local mining engineers. The only person who is not enthusiastic about Homer's hobby is Homer's father, who longs for his boy to someday follow in his footsteps and become foreman of the mine, a leader among the local townspeople. Gradually, the "rocket boys" begin to have some success with their contraptions. They even set up a special launching pad at the local slag heap, complete with a small blockhouse. Trouble ensues, however, when the local authorities believe that one of their rockets started a small forest fire. Their chances of going to the state science fair begin to dim. Furthermore, Homer's relationship with his father takes a turn for the worst until the movie's heartwarming finish.

RADIO

A respected, South Carolina high school football coach puts his reputation on the line by extending kindness to an illiterate, mentally challenged young black man. Coach Jones sees him, day after day, pushing a shopping cart filled with simple treasures past the practice field. After his players abuse the poor guy by tying him up and locking him in an equipment shed, Jones becomes more intimately involved in mentoring the boy, who becomes known as Radio (so nicknamed for his passion for radios and Motown music).

Radio lives on the outskirts of town with his loving mother. She describes him as the "same as everybody else, just a bit slower than most." Radio assists with football practices and, during home games, whips up the crowd with his contagious enthusiasm. His pure heart earns him the affection of students and staff alike, though not everyone appreciates his childlike quirkiness. Some heartless, well-connected people would rather mock or marginalize Radio than try to understand him. That's when the loyalty of those close to him gets put to the test. Set in 1976 and inspired by a true story, *Radio* preaches compassion, challenges viewers to rethink their priorities, and testifies to the value of every human life.

Content: Violence & Gore: Coach Jones arrives at practice to discover that various team players have locked Radio inside a shed (with his feet and hands taped together) and are throwing balls at the shed, terrifying Radio. Radio then trips as he flees the scene once Coach Jones releases him (the coach later punishes the players). Football related collisions. Radio is arrested and is slammed onto the back of a police car and is handcuffed. **Profanity:** There is quite a lot of language for a PG rated movie. At least 14 "s" words, 10 hells, 2 craps, 2 damns and 1 use of "Jesus." **Alcohol/Drugs/Smoking:** Honeycutt may be chewing tobacco and spitting the juice out into a cup (we see the latter, but can't really tell about the former). **Sex & Nudity:** The coach's wife drops a non-explicit line of innuendo about what she wants her husband to bring to her. A group of teenage boys lure Radio into the girls' locker room as a joke. The room is all steamed up because many girls are showering. There is no nudity, but we do see a few girls wearing towels. **Frightening/Intense Scenes:** A few scenes where Radio looks quite frightened (for boys picking on him and being thrown in jail) might be a bit disturbing to some viewers, but they are not otherwise frightening. One scene where Radio is tied up by his legs and wrists and is gagged, the football team begins to taunt him. This scene can be rather intense. Radio's mother dies of a heart attack. He tears up his room and is very emotional when Coach Jones tries to talk to him. This is a very emotional scene.

Had this film been released today, it would most likely get a PG-13 rating. Suggested MPAA re-rating: PG-13- language, violence, and some disturbing scenes