



St. Mary Catholic Central High School

Living Faith, Gaining Knowledge, Serving Others

Greetings,

In an effort to bring Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* to life for the students, we always watch a film version of the play. This allows the students to see the drama as it was intended, rather than simply reading it on a page. As a culmination for our *Romeo & Juliet* unit, we will be watching the 1996 film *Romeo + Juliet*, directed by Baz Luhrmann and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. This film is rated PG-13 for scenes of contemporary violence and some sensuality. For specific details regarding the PG-13 rating, please visit <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0117509/parentalguide>.

The film makes use of Shakespeare's dialogue, but sets the story in the contemporary city of Verona Beach. Luhrmann does a marvelous job of bringing out the "true love" possessed by Romeo and Juliet through his adaptation of the setting, incorporation of a musical score, and manipulation of stage directions. He also takes a creative approach to interpretations of the characters within the play, leading to a great discussion on characterization.

Scenes that contain violent or suggestive content will be covered and muted. Luhrmann maintains the original plot of the play and, therefore, the final scenes of the film, containing Romeo and Juliet's suicides, will be shown. If you object to or have concerns about your child viewing this film, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at mescaggs@smccmonroe.com. If you request that your child not view the film, an alternative educational assignment will be provided for them that they may work on in the media center for the three days during which the film will be shown in class. Thank you.

-Megan Scaggs