

Fairfax Collegiate
2026 Summer Program
Filmmaking Course Syllabus
Rising Grades 4-6



Course Description

Make short films with your classmates.

Brainstorm ideas, write scripts, draw storyboards, and create shot lists. Cast roles, rehearse scenes, locate costumes and props, and shoot your films.

Use a video camera, tripod, boom mic, and video lights. Edit films on iMovie, and share with family and friends.

Students get to create stories, work with new technology, and collaborate with friends. They explore filmmaking from the first idea to the final cut. With hands-on practice and creative problem-solving, students build confidence as they learn to tell compelling stories on screen.

Students go through all the steps of pre-production, then they learn how to handle a camera, frame different types of shots, direct actors, record footage, and edit their films using professional techniques. Along the way, they experiment with special effects, sound, and music to create a polished final product. Each day brings new opportunities to shoot scenes, analyze footage, revise ideas, and practice the teamwork essential to filmmaking.

At the end of the course, families receive a copy of the students’ final film, showcasing their creativity and hard work. Students leave excited about filmmaking and ready to keep exploring storytelling through video.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	<p>Filmmaking Process: Students learn how to plan and create a film project that can be viewed by others.</p> <p>Connecting to an Audience: Students learn how to use images and audio to connect emotionally to an audience.</p> <p>Teamwork: Students learn how to work as teams to solve technical issues that arise during filmmaking.</p>
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Course Topics	<p>Brainstorming: Students come up with feasible ideas for a film project with given resources.</p> <p>Scriptwriting: Students learn how to outline and write a final script for a film.</p> <p>Pre-Production: Students learn how to complete the phases of pre-production, including prop selection and casting.</p> <p>Filming: Students learn how to handle a camera while filming a scene.</p> <p>Editing: Students learn how to edit out unnecessary material for a film.</p> <p>Special Effects: Students learn how to add visual effects to the film they produce.</p> <p>Music: Students learn how to compose and incorporate music into their films.</p> <p>Final Product: Students burn their films onto a DVD to show to an audience.</p>
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Course Schedule

Class Meeting 1	<p>Introduction: Students introduce themselves and receive an overview of the layout and content of the course.</p> <p>Filmmaking Pledge: Students are presented with and asked to sign an honor pledge to commit their best efforts to the filmmaking process.</p> <p>Students watch examples of film scenes to discuss potential improvements and what can be used in their own films.</p> <p>Screening And Discussion: Students watch various examples of film scenes to discuss what can be improved and what can be incorporated into their own films.</p> <p>Camera Test: Students are familiarized with the basic features of the camera and shoot test footage to get a feel for filmmaking and to use later for editing practice.</p> <p>End of Day 1: Students start brainstorming ideas for short films at the end of class, and go home preparing what to bring in tomorrow.</p>
Class Meeting 2	<p>Brainstorming Stories: Students get together and brainstorm simple stories to use for their first film project.</p> <p>Camera Test: Students are familiarized with the basic features of the camera and shoot test footage to get a feel for filmmaking and to use later for editing practice.</p> <p>Drafting Scripts: Students write the scripts for their films and begin to discuss pre-production.</p> <p>Editing Demo: Students are taught the basic controls of editing and start to edit the test footage from Day 1.</p>
Class Meeting 3	<p>Lesson on Types of Shots/Film Vocabulary: Students learn basic shot types and film vocabulary.</p> <p>Storyboarding: Students craft a storyboard for their projects to prepare for filming Film 1.</p>

	<p>Discussing the 9 Points: Students learn the 9 Key Points to use when filmmaking</p> <p>Test Shots of Storyboards: Students practice shooting utilizing pre-production materials</p> <p>Editing Continued: Students have the option to continue editing Day 1 footage</p> <p>End of Day 3: Class is ended by showing the day's footage and discussing the next class.</p>
Class Meeting 4	<p>Casting: Character roles are assigned to students.</p> <p>Prop Making: Props are made for the first film.</p> <p>Begin Shooting: Students begin to shoot Film 1</p> <p>Begin Shooting: Students begin to shoot Film 1</p> <p>Introduce Film 2 Scriptwriting: Students start planning and writing their second film project</p> <p>End of Day 4: Students end the day by screening today's footage and discussing further plans.</p>
Class Meeting 5	<p>Continue Shooting if Needed/Start Editing: Students continue shooting and try to wrap up Film 1.</p> <p>Discussing the 9 Points: Students learn the 9 Key Points to use when filmmaking</p> <p>Edit Film 1: Students edit Film 1.</p> <p>Write/Develop Film 2: Students get to work on writing, developing, and planning Film 2</p>
Class Meeting 6	<p>Finish Writing if Needed: Students finish the script for Film 2</p> <p>Shot Lists: Students learn about and create shot lists for Film 2.</p> <p>Film 2 Storyboards: Students make storyboards for Film 2.</p> <p>Edit Film 1 (1): Students finish editing Film 1</p> <p>End of Day 6: Students end the day by discussing tomorrow's big shoot.</p>
Class Meeting 7	<p>Film 2 Production (Shooting): Students spend the next couple of classes shooting Film 2</p> <p>Film 2 Production (Shooting): Students spend the next couple of classes shooting Film 2</p> <p>End of Day 7: Students end the day by watching the day's footage and discuss what needs to be accomplished tomorrow.</p>
Class Meeting 8	<p>Film 2 Production (Shooting): Students spend the next couple of classes shooting Film 2</p> <p>Film 2 Production (Shooting): Students spend the next couple of classes shooting Film 2</p> <p>End of Day 8: Students end the day by watching the day's footage and discuss if anything else needs to be shot.</p>
Class Meeting 9	<p>Make-Up Shots: Students finish up any shooting or reshooting for Film 2.</p> <p>Edit Film 2: Students begin editing Film 2.</p>
Class Meeting 10	<p>Edit Film 2: Students begin editing Film 2.</p> <p>Edit Film 2: Students begin editing Film 2.</p>

	Watch Party: Students watch their completed work and reflect on the creative journey.
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