

Dear Parent,

Over the next few days, I plan on showing to the Centaur Choir the movie *The Pianist*, a film by Roman Polanski. This film provides a detailed account of how famed Polish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman survived the brutal occupation of Poland during World War II. Central to the film is Szpilman's music, and how his music ultimately helps him to survive, both in body and in spirit.

I am requiring that this permission slip be signed in order for your student to watch this film (even the 18 year olds), because of the unflinching way in which this film depicts the violence and cruelty of this time period. As this is a historical piece, the violence is in no way glamorized, but is presented plainly so that the viewer may have a better sense of man's capacity for cruelty, and also for man's capacity for bravery, compassion, hope, and perseverance in the face of cruelty.

If you **do not** wish for your student to watch this film please indicate so on the attached slip, and they will be given an alternate activity to do while we are watching this film. Any student that does not turn in a slip will by default complete the alternate activity. We will begin watching *The Pianist* Wed, May 27th.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail or call.

Josh Countryman
763-561-2120 x 2601
jcountryman@brookcntr.k12.mn.us

_____ I give _____ permission to watch *The Pianist*.

_____ I do not give _____ permission to watch *The Pianist*.

parent/guardian signature

date