Dear Parents/Guardians,

This notice is to inform you that the movie “**The Pianist**” will be shown in your son’s/daughter’s English 10 class over the course of the next month.

We are currently working on our graphic novel, holocaust unit, and will be comparing and contrasting the book and movie in terms of its content and characters.  The film is rated **14A** for violence.

**Here is an excerpt from commonsensemedia.org**

*Parents need to know that*The Pianist*is a 2002 Oscar-winning movie about a young Jewish musician living in Warsaw desperately trying to make sense of the Nazi invasion of his country and the subsequent degradations, the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the madness that led to the Holocaust. There is graphic violence, but unlike so many movies in which violence is shown simply to add surface-level excitement to an otherwise formulaic Hollywood blockbuster, the violence is intended to reveal a glimpse of the real-life horrors European Jews endured at the hands of the Nazis during World War II and to leave audiences with the conviction that atrocities and genocide such as this must never happen again. Nonetheless, the violence is graphic: Men and women are shot in the head for little to no reason, a man in a wheelchair is tossed off a balcony, a man lying injured in the road is run over by a tank. There is also the wartime violence of machine-gun battles, bombed-out cities, explosions, and casualties. Profanity includes "f--k" and "s--t." The movie should inspire thought and discussion on the extremes of evil and good in humankind, the individual acts of heroism undertaken by those whose names will never make the history books, and the transcendent and unifying nature of music and art.*

The screening will be done in portions over the span of a few weeks. Students will be given warning and context for violent scenes before they happen.

I have chosen this film for the following reasons:

1. I feel that it offers the best connections to the novel while also adding a realistic and empathetic perspective on multiple viewpoints.
2. The students have shown maturity in the content thus far and are ready for a realistic portrayal that they may not search out on their own.
3. With the current climate in Hollywood I would like to have an ‘artist vs content’ debate later in the year. Roman Polanski’s personal history in contrast with the importance of this film, will act as a great starting point.

Please sign below and return this form **only** if you give permission for your son/daughter to see this film.  Alternate work will be provided for any student not watching the movie.

Sincerely,

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_