

Who's ready to get out of the classroom?

The Varsity is now offering school screenings for
Spring 2026!

In partnership with Passport to Culture, Des Moines Film aims to introduce students to the art of cinema and engage with the powerful themes presented on screen.

Our school screening program is designed for grades 6-12 and can accommodate groups up to 150 students. The Varsity's curated film library covers a wide variety of subject areas from the Classics to World Languages to Social Studies - sometimes all in one!



Each session will include a post-film critical thinking & activity session facilitated by our Education Coordinator. Curriculum packets will be provided to educators with recommended pre- and post-field trip supplemental media & activities.



Planning Information & FAQs



Pricing

49 Students & Below	\$300
50 - 150 Students	\$6/Student

- Student count does *not* include teachers and chaperones - adults can attend for free! We request an adult/student ratio of 1:10 for grades 6-8; 1:15 for grades 9-12. Chaperones over that ratio can still attend the event, but must pay admission price (\$6).
- Payment will be due on the day of the event.

Scheduling

- School screenings are available Monday to Friday (pending theater & staff availability).
- The Varsity can accommodate school groups from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Expect the entire theater experience to last around 3.25 hours.
- Multiple classes, grades, and subject areas can attend the same screening! We will work with you to make sure the post-film activities fit the needs of your group.

Programming

- Based on discussions with our Education Coordinator, teachers will select a film from our curated film library. Each film in our library has been carefully chosen for both relevant content and cinema value.
- Teachers will receive an overview of the planned post-film activities, as well as a supplemental media & activities packet two weeks prior to the event.

Concessions

- With the exception of personal water bottles (and the essential travel mug of coffee!), we do not allow outside food or drink in the Varsity.
- A \$4 student combo (small popcorn & a small drink) is available for purchase to create that true movie theater atmosphere! All combos must be ordered in advance and paid for as a group at the time of the screening.
- A further discounted student combo can be arranged for students who receive free or reduced lunch.

Facilities & Parking

- Both of our theaters are wheelchair accessible. The Varsity also offers assistive listening headphones, closed captioning receivers, and closed captioning glasses. Please address any specific requests at the time of booking.
- Busses can unload and pick up students in front of the theater on 25th Street. Street parking is available for busses in the surrounding area.

To book your school screening,
email Education Coordinator, Jessie Hewins, at jhewins@desmoinesfilm.org.