



Movies finding niche in schools

BY JOHN WINTERS
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

Imagine seeing "The Sound of Music" about 40 times. Karen Schofield has, and she'll see it a few more times again this year.

The Norton Middle School teacher uses the film to teach her students about musicals. Along the way, they learn about such things as vocal technique and World War II history.

"The movie still holds up," Schofield said. "And the kids sing along to the songs."

Movies can be a great way to drive home a point or impart a lesson in a way that's more likely to stick with a young person through the years, experts say.

"Films can be a useful tool, because they stimulate discussion," said James Frieden, a Californian lawyer who co-founded the "Teach With Movies" Internet site (www.teach-withmovies.org). "Movies are very vibrant, and they make the lessons more current."

Frieden and his wife, Deborah Elliott, both former Boston residents,

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'It makes the kids appreciate that some movies really have some social value and educational value.'

NAHS history teacher