



BRING CHASING CORAL TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU

What's inside:

- [Why approach a school about Chasing Coral](#)
- [How schools can incorporate Chasing Coral into the classroom](#)
- [How to approach your local school](#)
- [Sample email text](#)

Why approach a school about Chasing Coral

To give coral reefs a fighting chance, we must engage the next generation. After thousands of community screenings in 50 countries around the world, we've seen that the film resonates strongly with young people and helps them hold onto an innate curiosity about their environment.

Hearing from you, as a parent or community member, keeps that important dialogue alive!

- You can help push students to engage outside the classroom, as the film and its accompanying materials help students apply their studies to real-life problem-solving.
- You can spark community-wide change by first engaging educators, students, and school districts to help plan an impactful screening with busy educators.

How schools can incorporate Chasing Coral into the classroom

A screening of the film can take place in an individual classroom or a school-wide assembly with accompanying educational materials. To make it as easy as possible to incorporate Chasing Coral into an educator's already carefully planned curriculum, you can guide your schools to the lessons and projects we have already designed around the film

- [Pre and post-screening lessons](#) – Interdisciplinary lesson plans were developed in collaboration with teachers of different disciplines in hopes that any 6th-12th grade teacher could adapt them for his or her classroom. The lessons are intended to put students in the role of investigator, teacher, or translator, while teachers play the question master or coach.
- [Unstoppable Exhibition project](#) –This longer-term project ties in with a new initiative our team is launching called *Unstoppable* to highlight the ways in which local leaders, both young and old, are helping to make their communities safer, stronger and more resilient. Students take on research “challenges,” in which they identify a local environmental problem and like Zack and Charlie in the film, they connect with a mentor or local organization to connect the impact of their work to the real world.

How a screening can complement instruction:

- **Introduce Problem-Based Learning.** As the team sets out to capture coral bleaching, they are met with many setbacks, forcing them to work together and find new methods to capture this historic bleaching event.
- **Spark community engagement.** Inviting local guest speakers who are experts on environmental issues in your community, can inspire students to take action or learn more about what’s happening in their home.
- **Inspire exciting career paths.** Our film’s stars and science-focused subject matter may open up new career possibilities for students to pursue.

Ideas for how educators can screen the film:

- School-wide assembly
- Individual classrooms, accompanying a lesson
- District-wide public screening
- Whatever you think up! An impactful screening can be big or small.

(continued on pg. 3)

How to approach your local school

Teachers are extremely busy! When you contact local educators, let them know exactly how you'll be able to help plan a screening or where you think Chasing Coral may fit within their curriculum. We have a few ideas about where to start:

- **Offer to take photos or video of the event.** While the film elicits an emotional response, it also inspires and sparks people to action! Capture that energy and make sure to share it with our team!
- **Rally other parents.** Creating a community of parents who can help in some way will create an important support system for your school.
- **Use your unique skills.** Do what you're best at, whether that writing an op-ed for your local paper, throwing a fundraiser, bringing in your network, or creating a coral art project for the students.

Reaching out:

The first step is contacting your local educators. Think about who you know within the school community and who will be the biggest advocate for bringing Chasing Coral into the classroom.. Here are a few ideas of who to contact:

- Your student's science teacher
- The school's principal
- Curriculum leads
- The local school board
- Your PTA president
- Contacts at the district level who can connect with others at specific school

And here are some ways to get in touch with them:

- **By phone.** Call the school's main office, your district's contact number, or schedule a time to talk to your student's teacher.
- **In person.** Attend a local school board meeting, PTA session, or bring it up at a parent-teacher conference.
- **E-mail.** Shoot your child's teacher, local principal, or district head a quick note ([see our email template](#)). We have a template you can use as a starting point.

Sample email text

On the next page, you will find a template that can be used to engage your local school. You are welcome to edit as you see fit, but remember to include a bit about the film, why you see *Chasing Coral* as important programming for the school, and how you plan to help, if needed.

Hi [X],

As a [PARENT OF, MEMBER OF, RESIDENT OF] I wanted to share a unique opportunity for [SCHOOL/CLASSROOM/DISTRICT] that uses film and place-based learning as innovative tools to deepen their understanding of key concepts and engage students in pressing social and environmental issues beyond the classroom.

First, a bit of background.

I recently watched [Chasing Coral](#), a new Netflix film that follows a team of divers, scientists and filmmakers out to capture visual evidence of how warming ocean water is causing coral reefs to bleach at an unprecedented rate. The film was very powerful for me. It does a fantastic job of explaining the underlying cause of coral bleaching, and, unlike other documentaries, it uses very compelling, relatable characters that are sure to capture the attention of young people. In fact, the film has taken away 2 student choice awards at MountainFilm Telluride and MountainFilm Aspen.

I wanted to reach out about the possibility of screening Chasing Coral at [SCHOOL/CLASSROOM/DISTRICT]. I think it would be a great addition to the current curriculum, and Chasing Coral has already developed interdisciplinary materials (pre-post lessons and a longer-term exhibition project) that can accompany the film. **The film is available on Netflix to stream or download. There is no cost associated with hosting a screening of the film.** My suggestion is to [SCREENING/PROJECT/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL]. I can offer by help by [HOW YOU CAN HELP].

I would love to talk further about this opportunity to engage the students with the important topic of coral bleaching, inspire them to take action on a community level, and spark a scientific curiosity.

Please feel free to contact me at [YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION].

Thank you,