

Dear School Leader,

Stand UP & Speak OUT (SUSO) is an empathy and connection through the arts initiative that creates films with sustainable educational components. SUSO provides Social Emotional Learning (SEL) tools to build a more harmonious world one story at a time.

SUSO is the ONLY academic driven, research driven and data informed organization that produces influential films with life-long lasting impact that addresses bullying (**Stand UP**), gun violence (**Ethan Song**), and addiction (**Finding Hope**). All 3 films are made available on Vimeo with password protection.

Stand UP is a film developed for students in grades 3 – 8. The film centers around the experience of Stephanie, a shy high school student who auditions for the annual talent show. Her nerves get the best of her because her classmates filmed her humiliating audition and posted it on social media. Stephanie cries herself to sleep and feels isolated. In a dream a boy she knew in kindergarten named Ian appears in a dream to show her the different situations of why people bully and the struggles that they are going through behind the scenes. **Stand UP** addresses the causes and impacts of bullying in students. The film challenges students to reflect on their own experiences and helps students foster self-awareness and good decision making skills when faced with challenging situations. By viewing this film students are empowered to feel connected, empathetic, and resilient.

The enrichment guide that accompanies **Stand UP** is attached to this email.

View the film trailer for **Stand UP** here: <https://vimeo.com/455508581>

Ethan Song is the true story of the final days of Connecticut teen Ethan Song who was unintentionally shot and killed with an unsecured firearm at a neighbor's home. This film provides a touching and informative lesson on preventable gun violence. An enrichment guide on gun safety will be available in January 2022.

Ethan's Law is a Connecticut and National safe gun storage law that passed overwhelmingly as a result of this tragedy. Ethan's parents, Mike and Kristin Song are now working on a national bill and education programs that will save lives and protect children.

View the film trailer for **Ethan Song** here: <https://vimeo.com/548881632>

Finding Hope is a film for families about the danger of modern-day addiction and the truth about counterfeit pressed pills and the deadly consequences of buying street drugs which mimic prescription medications.

Because Fentanyl is responsible for up to 85% of all overdose deaths in the United States, this film helps to bring about awareness of a national health crisis. ***Finding Hope*** tells the story of a young teenage couple addicted to pills. What they are not aware of, just like so many U.S. citizens, is that counterfeit pills bought on the street are pressed to look exactly like prescription drugs and they can be deadly.

Through the eyes of Hope, a 16 year old with a troubling and life threatening secret, we witness the tragedy surrounding the opioid addiction crisis and the affects it has on herself, family and community.

Finding Hope contains strong language and intense subject matter therefore viewing is at the discretion of each school.

A conversation starter for ***Finding Hope*** is also attached to this email.

View the film trailer for ***Finding Hope*** here: <https://vimeo.com/601619207>

Students need guidance to successfully navigate the tangle of social and emotional challenges before them. These films and educational components are desperately needed in schools right now!

Thank you for considering these films for your school system. Should you have any further questions or wish to have access please feel free to contact me at susosing@gmail.com.

Warm Regards,
Jill Nesi, Founder, Producer, Songwriter
Stand UP & Speak OUT (SUSO)

