

# Film revives Malcolm X studies

By Tamara Henry  
USA TODAY

Schools across the U.S. are piggybacking on *Malcolm X* to teach about the man and civil rights.

"You take what is happening in your environment and you maximize it for educational development," says Father Charles Payne of Hales Franciscan High School in Chicago.

Among the activities:

► At the predominantly black Hales Franciscan boys school, all 350 students went to a private viewing before the

movie opened last week. Students watched and discussed an interview with Malcolm X before the movie and then compared it with *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* — required reading.

► Fulton Junior High School, Indianapolis, trained teachers, fearing many were unprepared to answer student questions or spot incorrect information.

"We found that most of our teachers had very little, limited knowledge" of Malcolm X, said principal Steve Stephanoff.

► Portland, Ore., public school officials plan to seek permission from

Warner Bros. to use parts of the movie as a teaching tool for students interested in joining gangs.

► Schools such as Malcolm X Academy in Detroit are also planning field trips to see the film.

About 6.8 million students in 10,500 schools had a three-day series on Malcolm X delivered to them by Channel One, the in-school TV news program, said David Neuman, spokesman. He called the film "a wonderful, teachable moment."

► **Malcolm X's home, 5A.**



By David Lee

**THEATER TO CLASSROOM: 'X' stars** Delroy Lindo, left, Denzel Washington.