Region 5 - South Bay

REGION 5 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
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REGION 5 ARTS LEAD
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Arts education is an integral part of the development of each human being and vital to our society. Throughout history, the arts have influenced society by changing opinions, instilling values and translating experiences across space and time. Study and participation in the fine arts is a key component in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence shows its effectiveness in reducing student dropout rates, raising student attendance, developing better team players, fostering a love for learning, improving greater student dignity, enhancing student creativity, and producing more prepared citizens for the workplace for tomorrow. The arts also provide learners with non-academic benefits such as promoting self-esteem, motivation, aesthetic awareness, cultural exposure, creativity, improved emotional expression, as well as social harmony and appreciation of diversity.

– Deneen Guss, Ed.D., Monterey County Superintendent of Schools

Monterey County

The Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE), in partnership with the community, provides the leadership, support and service excellence needed to prepare all of Monterey County’s diverse students for success in each step of their educational journey today and in the future.

The Media Center for Arts, Education and Technology

The Media Center for Arts, Education and Technology (MCAET) is a state-of-the-art studio facility capable of training students in visual and performing arts and digital media career technical education pathways. The facility features two 24/7 television channels, editing for video, film and television, high definition and 3D video cameras, a black box theater seating 100, a sound and recording room for underscoring and animation, a “game design” room, and digital connection network of blended communication towers transmitting student produced media arts countywide. MCAET also now serves over 250 students from the regional occupation program, Alternative Education program, home charter program
and the Federal Workforce Program. The MCAET Black Box Theater stage hosts students performing live for a studio audience and a county television audience. As well, MCAET is host to film screenings, poetry readings, live music events, esports, and professional development. From arts and culture to sports, MCAET/MCOE leads the way. For more information visit: www.mcaet.org

After School Children’s Theatre

After school Children’s Theatre (ACT) a subsidiary of Paper Wing Theatre brings after school musicals to Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) campuses. The program include shows and learning at almost every elementary and middle school in MPUSD to make sure as many students as possible have exposure to and experience participating in theatre. Lion King, Jungle Book, Seussical and Willy Wonka have impressed overfull audiences of family and friends. In the middle and high schools, ACT also teaches aspects of the technical side of theatre with lights and sound engineering provided in part by students.

King City Arts Magnet

The King City Arts Magnet (KCAM) officially opened its doors in August 2004 as a K-1 Elementary School with 33 students. The Magnet School had previously been known as the King City Arts Charter School. Since that time, the school has expanded into a K-5 Elementary School with 480+ students with an incredible and dedicated staff.

Art and technology are harnessed at the KCAM to help develop academic skills necessary for future employment in the global workforce. Art and technology, when used in creative ways, will give KCAM students the creative edge they need to compete and advance in that workforce. By integrating arts and technology into the core curriculum, learning has real meaning to KCAM students.

The KCAM believes that we can be the agents of change in an educational system that requires both re-invention and inspiration. For more information visit: www.karts.kcusd.org.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School of the Arts Elementary School

Dr. Martin Luther King School of the Arts (MLK SOA) is proud to be a partner in the Turnaround Arts program, a network of schools across the nation dedicated to ensuring all children have access to the arts. Through the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Turnaround Arts is a program that instills high-quality and integrated arts instruction to strengthen school reform, boost academic achievement and increase student engagement. Singer-songwriter and musician Jackson Browne has adopted MLK and visits and supports the school’s music program. At the MLK SOA, the arts empower students to cultivate a passion for learning. In 2020 the school was recognized among 13 California schools to receive a California Exemplary Arts Education Award.

At Dr. Martin Luther King School of the Arts (MLK SOA), every student receives dedicated arts instruction from a Visual Arts Specialist and Music Specialist every week in addition to the arts-integrated curriculum in their classroom. MLK students practice mindfulness and promote the five qualities of the Artist Profile: Proud, Creative, Caring, Inquisitive, and Open-Minded. Through community partnerships with local arts organizations, MLK students engage in Artist Residencies with learning opportunities resulting from collaborations between local artists and their teacher. For more information visit: www.king.mpusd.net.
We know that an arts education helps students develop critical thinking and further motivates them to learn and excel academically. Arts Education stimulates creativity and innovation that supports all areas of academics. Arts Education plays a significant role in supporting a well-rounded education, especially for disadvantaged students who are less likely to have access to arts instruction outside of the school setting."

– Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools
teaching artists, Sylas & Heidi Jumper, and also attended school-based performances by Common Sound, a music collective of symphony musicians and spoken word artists. SBCOE also works closely with the Arts Council’s Arts Now Community, a network of arts education advocates who are working to promote and expand arts education for all students in San Benito County. In 2019 they successfully advocated for the adoption of the Declaration of Student Rights to Arts Education by the San Benito Board of Education.

One of the county’s greatest achievements in the last year has been the creation of the new 3rd-5th Grade Visual Art Program within the Hollister School District and Aromas San Juan School District. This program, coordinated by the San Benito County Arts Council, brings weekly visual art classes to every 3rd, 4th and 5th grader in our two largest elementary school districts. That’s over 2,000 students per week getting the arts! The program is taught by qualified teaching artists and is expected to expand in 2020-21. We are grateful to Superintendent Ochoa (HSD) and Superintendent Huntoon (ASJUSD) for their leadership in the arts!
Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County Office of Education
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“\nThe Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to the arts as an expression of our core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership. Each of these are boldly expressed through our countywide Artspiration initiative. We have seen the power of the arts to engage and inspire all learners and be a powerful tool for youth to share their voices, bring awareness to their individuality, express their creativity and ignite their passions.\n”

– Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools

Arts Engaging with the Community
Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCQE) is proud of the growing Young Artist Showcase. The Young Artist Showcase is the largest collection of student artwork in the state. In the County Office, a new media arts wall has been installed to showcase artwork digitally. Throughout the building, you will find QR codes on the artwork that link to a video of the student artist statement.

In addition to the galleries at the County Office, the Young Artist Showcase can be found within the community. Partnerships have been a vital component of Artspiration, the arts education initiative, at SCCOE. There are Young Artist Showcase galleries displayed at the Mineta San Jose International Airport and the Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union locations.

In April 2019, Santa Clara County Office of Education hosted an Arts/STEAM Families Learning Together event at Orchard School. TK through grade 12 families were invited for a day of artmaking and design thinking.
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Primary students made art in parent-led workshops and upper grade students participated in a design challenge at R.A.F.T. (Resource Area For Teaching). Families also heard from working artists on how the Arts is a viable career path and the intersections with STEAM fields.

SCCOE is also a proud partner with SV Creates. SV Creates and SCCOE have come together to assist educator grants to provide arts experiences for K-12 classrooms in the Silicon Valley. In addition, SCCOE and SV Creates work together to support arts education in our alternative education system through the Studio Arts program. The Studio Arts program teaching artists lift up our most at-risk students in a creative and nurturing way.

Morgan Hill Unified School District Soaring With Arts Education

Morgan Hill Unified School District adopted the Equity Arts Resolution in June 2017 and received recognition as an early adopter at the 2018 Create CA Convening. Morgan Hill then started their strategic arts plan in the fall of 2017. The arts planning was done with support from the California Alliance for Education and the Santa Clara County Office of Education. These steps created a solid foundation and a readiness for the 2018-2019 Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant. MHUSD received $1 million through the SSAE grant to support their work on creating a more equitable approach to arts education through the lens of arts integration for all TK-8th grade students and teachers. With the grant funding, they were able to offer monthly arts integration trainings, teacher stipends for individualized arts projects that met the needs of their specific sites, arts programming with a social emotional emphasis for all students at the K-8 summer school, an intensive Arts Summer Institute for teachers, and necessary supplies for the schools to feel confident implementing arts integration as a teaching strategy.

Morgan Hill Unified School District’s school board officially approved their strategic arts education plan in the Spring of 2019. In the Fall of 2019, the district brought on a full time VAPA Teacher on Special Assignment.
Access to Arts Education is an important component of our struggle for equity in our schools. We deeply value the Arts as they play a fundamental role in our efforts to serve the whole child. Arts Education helps our students find their voice and guide their own trajectory towards success.

– Faris Sabbah, Ed.D., Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) is committed to partnering with our school districts and nonprofit agencies to ensure equity in access to arts education for all K-12 students. We work with our districts to support their policies and programs for arts education by serving on District Arts Committees that offer hands-on support and resources. We recognize that robust and articulated art programs make our students’ worlds richer, safer, and more compassionate.

The importance of the Arts is articulated in the Santa Cruz COE’s new five-year Strategic Plan. We view the Arts as a crucial component of the health and wellness of the whole child. In addition to continuing our annual events and ongoing services in the Arts, our goals include “increasing student access to ongoing, standards-based programs in the Arts, and supporting ongoing standards-based STEAM programs”. Deep engagement with art creates well-rounded individuals who possess vital skills, such as collaboration, empathy, and problem-solving for successfully pursuing a multitude of career pathways.

Santa Cruz COE Professional Development

Santa Cruz COE offers a number of strong professional development opportunities, including the Summer Arts Integration Institute. Since its inception a decade ago, this transformative Institute has been a successful collaborative effort between the Santa Cruz COE and the Arts Council of Santa Cruz. Over 300 teachers throughout Santa Cruz County have participated in the Institute to experience both arts immersion and arts integration strategies that are grounded in Harvard’s Studio Habits of Mind.

As a recipient of the 2019 Student Support and Enrichment Grant, we brought the Artist Teacher Partnership Program to Alternative Education programs. Classroom teachers and teaching artists work together...
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to create a curriculum that integrates a core subject area such as history with an arts discipline. Students who have rarely experienced arts learning in the classroom had the opportunity to learn more about theatre, music, poetry, photography, and/or visual arts. Several of the programs have showcased their work in a theater production, school mural, or arts exhibition.

**Santa Cruz COE Collaborative Partnerships**

**MUSIC** • The Santa Cruz COE works in partnership with several music organizations including the Santa Cruz Symphony, QS Music Productions, Kuumbwa Jazz, and El Sistema to bring music programs to our county’s youth.

We collaborate with the Santa Cruz Symphony and Carnegie Hall to bring the Link Up music programs to our students. Link Up “links” music education in the classroom to that of the local Symphony. In the spring of every year, over 4000 Santa Cruz County grades 4-5 Link Up students have the opportunity to learn and recite world-renowned musical arrangements such as Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony and the Blue Danube conducted by Maestro Daniel Stewart of the Santa Cruz Symphony. The Santa Cruz COE is proud to be part of this world-wide commitment to music education. We are proud to be one of over 110 partner orchestras around the world.

*El Sistema* offers daily music education in several schools throughout our county with the majority of programs based in Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Their goal is to increase equitable access to music education. By connecting school-based and out-of-school music learning through partnerships, community events, and performances, *El Sistema* promotes the long-term development and success of over 500 students currently attending the program. They also are studying the academic and social-emotional gains that students are able to make when they have access to ongoing, sequential, standards-based arts programs.

**VISUAL ARTS** • The Santa Cruz COE partners with the Arts Council and all of our Districts to bring the annual *Youth Art Exhibit* to the County Government Building. 500 pieces of artwork from Kindergarten through 12th grade students are on display from March through May. From this collection, 35 pieces are selected to hang on permanent display at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

**THEATRE, DANCE, LITERARY ARTS** • In addition to collaborating with Tandy Beal & Co. to bring dance and theater residencies to elementary school students, we work with the state and local Arts Council to bring *Poetry Out Loud* to our county’s high school students. We are unique in Santa Cruz County in that we want to highlight our commitment to multilingualism. Therefore, between every student reciting for our *Poetry Out Loud* competition, we honor students who recite poetry in other languages such as Spanish, Mixtec, Farsi, and French.

**STEAM** • To support our youth in dealing with environmental stress, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Faris Sabbah, has launched a youth leadership initiative focused on student climate action. Students apply to work with a countywide team of students and administrative leaders to design, plan, and facilitate a spring Summit.

We integrate the Arts into our support for student climate action through our Annual Fashion Teens event. This event encourages students to use recycled or reused materials to create wearable clothing that make artistic statements about the environment and serve as a medium of personal self-expression.
“In today’s multimedia society, the arts are the media, and therefore provide powerful and essential means of communication. The arts provide unique symbol systems and metaphors that convey and inform life experience (i.e., the arts are ways of knowing).”

- Introduction, California Arts Standards for Public Schools, Prekindergarten Through Grade Twelve (Arts Standards)