REGION 6 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS
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REGION 6 ARTS LEAD
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Participation in school art programs fosters creativity and critical thinking while contributing to the intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being of children. Educating the whole child without including the arts is equivalent to solving puzzles without using all of the pieces.”

– Robert Russell, Ed.D., Amador County Superintendent of Schools

Amador County Office of Education
The Amador County Office of Education in conjunction with the Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD), works closely with the Amador County Arts Council and the Amador Alliance for Arts Education. Along with teachers, students, and leaders from all school sites, Amador County Office of Education facilitates the District Arts Planning Committee as the team develops, implements, and refines the district Arts Education Plan. Through the LCAP process, the community has built an infrastructure for arts education funding over the last two years, resulting in almost $175,000 being allocated to arts education annually. Thanks to student leadership from Amador Alliance for Finalists for the 2020 Poetry Out Loud County Competition.
Arts Education, ACUSD Board of Trustees adopted the Declaration of Equity in Arts Learning in January of 2018. In the summer of 2018, the partnership of organizations and citizens worked together with the Arts Planning Initiative thanks to the California Alliance for Arts Education. In August of 2019, the ACUSD Board of Trustees adopted the District Arts Plan. Over the last two years of community LCAP planning, the plan now includes over $85,000 in arts education funding and an itinerant early childhood music teacher. The Amador County Arts Council continues to provide over $20,000 for arts curriculum for grades K-6 and 9-12. Parent-Teacher organizations continue to fund additional arts education throughout the school year. Thanks to the CCSESA Arts Initiative grant, the Amador County Office of Education now offers integrated arts education professional development to K-8 teachers and funding for further arts planning.

Native American Ledger Art that Amador County Arts Council is now teaching in the 5th grade class. Integrated into the U.S. history curriculum. Ledger art is a term for Plains Indian narrative drawing or painting on paper or cloth.

“An arts education helps build academic skills and increase academic performance, while also providing alternative opportunities to reward the skills of children who learn differently.”

- California Governor Gavin Newsom
A Tradition of Music Performances

For over 60 years, talented student-musicians have taken part in choir, band, and string orchestra performances at the San Joaquin County Middle and High School Honors Concerts. In the lead-up to the San Joaquin County High School Honors Concert in January 2019, Tracy High School senior Raquel Johnson’s life was a blur of recitals, concerts, rehearsals, and practice for all the music groups and programs she participated in. “Music is almost literally my life right now,” she said at the time.

Even though Raquel spent a lot of time on the stage performing, she said there’s still something special about the countywide Honors Concert, where she played viola with the orchestra. “It’s more exhilarating,” she said. In addition to orchestra, the concert also features band and choir performances, bringing together the best-of-the-best student musicians in the county. Raquel was one of 27 students that night to receive the Nelson Zane Four-Year Award for playing in the concert all her high school years.

“At the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE), we value the profound impact that the arts have on student achievement and the important role that the arts play in developing well-rounded students. For over six decades, the SJCOE has provided opportunities for student growth in the arts through band, choir, and orchestra clinics and masterclasses, and has proudly sponsored countywide honors concerts and festivals which have celebrated the dedication, talent, and achievements of generations of students. We proudly support San Joaquin County districts and schools by also providing an artist residency program that promotes creativity and sparks imagination in K-12 classrooms throughout the county.”

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San Joaquin County Office of Education

Contact: Sandra Wendell • swendell@sjcoe.net
The concerts are organized by the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) Visual and Performing Arts Department, which sponsors the event in collaboration with San Joaquin Delta College and the San Joaquin County Music Educators’ Association. In 2019, nearly 300 students from over 20 schools played in the High School Honors Concert, and more than 230 students from 35 schools performed in the Middle School Honors Concert. In doing so, these students joined thousands who came before them in a tradition of music performances in San Joaquin County that spans decades.

A Culture of Creativity

With an oil pastel in hand and a nearly blank canvas in front of him, artist Mario Tejada looked over the classroom filled with third-graders poised over their sheets of paper. He drew a line, a circle, and some other shapes. The students followed suit -- more or less -- on their paper. Soon it was clear the shapes and lines would connect to form a drawing of Snoopy, depicted atop his iconic doghouse in a winter scene. The day’s lesson was the latest in a four-part “Know the Artist” series that the visiting artist brought to this class at Lincoln Elementary School in the Manteca Unified School District (MUSD). This week’s lesson was to get to know Charles M. Schulz, creator of the Peanuts comic strip. The previous week, students created seascapes with a lighthouse in the style of the artist Paul Gauguin.

Tejada, a veteran with the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) Artists-in-Schools program, was teaching as part of a four-week residency at the school. The SJCOE Artists-in-Schools program puts professional artists in “residence” in classrooms throughout San Joaquin County. The program offers California Standards-based lesson plans for residencies in the visual arts and dance and movement. In the 2019-2020 school year, the Artists-in-Schools program will serve approximately 640 K-12 classrooms at 49 schools in 13 San Joaquin County school districts.

Typically, these residencies last for four to eight weeks and are funded through money raised by parent-teacher organizations. However, at MUSD’s Lincoln and Nile Garden elementary schools, it is different. They are part of a Blackwing grant-funded pilot program aimed at cementing the arts into students’ education for three years. Instead of having one four-week residency, third-graders at these two schools have sixteen weeks of art. And the program expands to fourth and fifth grade, too. That means students have instruction in the arts sustained over three consecutive years. “It’s a unique experience for students because it is ongoing and three years-long,” said Sandra Wendell, who coordinates the SJCOE Artists-in-Schools program. “That way, when you enter high school, you’ll know if you have a gift or an interest in the arts.”

There’s more! During a typical residency, a rolling cart stocked with high-quality art supplies comes and goes with the artists. In this Blackwing grant-funded program, the oil pastels, watercolor pencils, tempera paints, charcoals, and artist’s paper stay in the classroom throughout the year. These supplies are for teachers and students to incorporate art into their daily lessons. In Kayci Farac’s third-grade class at Lincoln Elementary, her students have been using the supplies in science class. They captured the colors they saw in the leaves outside when studying the seasons, she said. They drew the phases of the moon. Farac said her students look forward to the art class. “I can’t wait to see what they are capable of after three years.”
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I do not want art for a few any more than education for a few, or freedom for a few.

– William Morris

Arts education is a collaborative effort, and SCOE values and utilizes partnerships to support and grow arts education programs. Stanislaus COE has a long-standing partnership with the Gallo Center for the Arts. Through this partnership, SCOE and the Gallo Center for the Arts develop and host arts education workshops for teachers based on the performances offered as part of the Gallo Center for the Arts Pathways to Creativity Student Matinee Series. Since 2015, SCOE has partnered with the State Theatre to offer the Youth Education Program (YEP) performance series. The YEP
provides a series of free matinee performances that are aligned to California State Content and Common Core Standards for teachers and students. The partnerships with the Gallo Center for the Arts, and the State Theatre help develop, and guide arts education opportunities provided to students, teachers, and administrators.

The work SCOE does to support arts education is not limited to events offered by the county office. SCOE works closely with districts to provide standards-aligned opportunities and workshops for teachers to learn more about the arts, arts education, and arts integration. Districts value the opportunity to offer arts education and arts integration professional development on-site at district schools, and SCOE is proud to be able to support such events. Through these events, SCOE is able to offer a variety of customized professional development offerings including but not limited to: arts-discipline-specific workshops; social-emotional learning; defining arts integration; grade-level specific arts integration; specific fine arts course workshops; sketchnotes; STEAM workshops; and utilizing arts integration in the general education classroom.

Through a continuous improvement model, SCOE strives to develop leadership and capacity for quality arts education in county schools and in districts. Countywide leadership continues to be developed through the regularly convening Arts Education Leadership Team, federal and state grant projects, and ongoing advocacy by SCOE. SCOE is a recipient of the California 2019 Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant, and the US DOE 2017 Professional Development for Art Education (PDAE) grant; these grants total over $2 million in funds to support arts education. The SSAE grant, which concluded in 2019, utilized research-based arts integration strategies to enhance the achievement and cognitive growth of English Language Arts of students with disabilities through a professional development module for teachers. Currently, SCOE partners with the Stanislaus Union School District on the PDAE grant, and yearly provides 40 hours of arts integration professional development to district teachers.

As part of the mission to ongoing arts education advocacy, SCOE offers opportunities for students and teachers to showcase their creative abilities by inviting student groups to perform and showcase their creative talents at stakeholder events. Such events include but are not limited to: the Art of the Educator Show, the Student Photography Show, the Transitional Kindergarten – 12th Grade Student Fine Arts Showcase, and most notably the Community Photography Project and Juried Exhibition. The Community Photography Project and Juried Exhibition is an opportunity for 7th – 12th Grade students to document what community means and looks like using photography. The artifacts created by students as part of the Community Photography Project and Juried Exhibition are showcased at the county office, and special selections of student work are permanently installed at SCOE. In this way, SCOE is able to demonstrate the meaning and value of the many communities represented by county students and stakeholders.
Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

Contact: Cathy Parker • cparker@tcsos.us

“Art is a uniquely human experience that connects us to each other and to the world around us. Arts education provides us the opportunity to educate the whole child and to help them develop a vision of what the future can be.”

~ Cathy Parker, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

Tuolumne County Office of Education

In the fall of 2018, the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office (TCSOS) was awarded a $583,000 Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant through the California Department of Education. The grant was used to develop STEAM Tracks; an intensive professional development program for sixty K-8 teachers, representing all K-8 schools in our county.

The focus of the grant was to provide intensive professional development to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Arts education (STEAM); promote collaboration among teachers and among teachers and artists in Tuolumne County; and produce curricular materials that provide students with art-infused STEM learning opportunities. The professional development included evening collaborative meetups with teachers, content artists, and staff. The meetups offered teachers short introductions to forms of art integration such as nature journaling, animation, dance, and technology, and also provided a space for teachers to collaborate and discuss the opportunities and challenges related to art integration. Also, teachers participated in an online and on-demand arts integration and STEAM conference that provided access to sessions on STEAM techniques, lessons, models, and examples of practical solutions.

The Adult Transition Program serves 18-22 year old students.
A second part of the STEAM Tracks grant was Art infusion in the classroom with community artists demonstrating how visual arts, music, dance and theatre/drama can be implemented in the classroom. Each teacher was assigned one artist for ten classroom periods.

A STEAM Tracks summer institute offered participants a two-week professional learning opportunity to experience different forms of art integration; delve deeply into the Next Generation Science Standards, mathematical practices, and art standards; and work collaboratively with other grade-level teachers to develop STEAM learning sequences for use in their classrooms. After the summer institute, participating teachers were invited to teach their developed lesson sequences to students at STEAM events at their selected school sites.

In addition to the STEAM Tracks grant, Tuolumne County school teachers benefit from a historically strong community partnership with the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance to provide arts education for students, and professional development for teachers. Dedicated to bringing the arts to all ages ARTS-Reach to Schools (ARTS) is a 30-year partnership with the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance, the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office and Tuolumne County’s schools. It is an Arts Education program that brings artists in dance, theater, visual art and music into classrooms. All lessons are fully aligned with California’s curriculum for the arts and its core academic subjects. Guest artists, with supplies and instruments, visit classrooms to inspire and share knowledge and love of the arts with many age groups. ARTS-Reach to Schools has been recognized numerous times as an exemplary arts education program.

Artists in Schools (AIS) is a California Arts Council (CAC) matching grant program (the selected schools match the CAC grants), designed to support high-quality artists in residency in schools for use with in-class or after school programs. These residencies bring the arts to school age children and empower classroom teachers to teach the arts, while they employ local artists. The residencies last at least 12 weeks and many times much longer.

Additionally, each March, the TCSOS coordinates an annual choir and band concert with area schools, featuring guest directors. The Annual Student Art Show features students throughout the county. This is a all student art show (K-12). Two age groups, K-6 and 7–12 grade students submit artwork with the help of their teachers. The art of 7-12 grade students is judged and ribbons are awarded. The work awarded the Best in Show is framed and hung in the Supervisors’ Lobby at the County Court House. The show is held at the Tuolumne County Library.

In partnership with the Tuolumne County Arts Council, our county’s high school students participate in the nationally recognized Poetry Out Loud Contest each year. We are very proud that our local finalist went on to win the State title in 2015.
“Arts education fosters bright, creative, and socially engaged students who will grow up to be our next leaders, parents, teachers, artists, and engineers. Their innovative ideas will shape industries; their creative thinking will find out-of-the-box solutions for a global society and will provide students with a way to understand themselves and have a sense of belonging.”

- Jane Chu, Former Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts