

Calaveras County

Arts in education is essential for students, both inside and outside of the classroom. The community partnerships that we foster help us provide a wide range of opportunities for students to explore and create through art. Students involved in art projects and programs can be seen flourishing in other academic ways, substantiating the value of arts in education. We take pride in providing, supporting, and collaborating on a variety of art programs within our schools and the community.

– **Karen Vail, Calaveras County Superintendent of Schools**



Calaveras County Office of Education ■ Contact: [Jessica Dorris, jdorris@ccoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:jdorris@ccoe.k12.ca.us)

Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE) recognizes the importance of the arts in all schools, from preschool through Adult Transitions programs. Throughout the county, students of all ages are creating meaning through artistic expression. The walls within CCOE serve as a showcase of student art, yet it only represents a small portion of the arts education that occurs on a regular basis in our four districts, charter school, and county programs.

Arts education is an integral component of all CCOE programs. For child development programs, students are provided with access to arts through activities that promote growth and provide joyful experiences. In CCOE's special education preschools, art is integrated weekly, if not daily, as a developmentally-appropriate way of teaching pre-academic skills, developing and improving the ability to attend to a task, and as a means of improving sensory tolerance and



fine motor skills. Within the Adult Transition program, art is integrated weekly as a means of exploring and developing independent leisure skills, understanding holidays or community events, and as a means of self-expression and self-advocacy.

Students enrolled in CCOE's court/community school and residential facility are provided with art enrichment opportunities. Recently CCOE was able to acquire new technology for students to take courses in art animation.



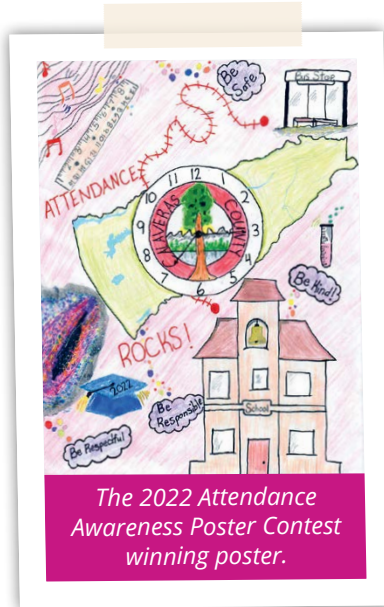
Regardless of age or educational placement, our students are more successful with hands-on learning opportunities that the arts provide within our classrooms.

Calaveras County is fortunate to have strong community support for the arts for our students. The Calaveras Arts Council is committed to supporting arts in the county's public schools. Ride & Walk 4 Art is an annual fundraiser to expose students to theatre, painting, drawing, literature, and poetry. Local high school students from all public, private, or home schools are invited to participate each year in the Poetry Out Loud competition presented by the Calaveras Arts Council with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Poetry Foundation, and the California Arts Council. Students are encouraged to learn about great poetry, achieved by memorizing and reciting them in the competition. CCOE appreciates the Calaveras Arts Council's dedication to arts education for the students in our county.



Poetry Out Loud Champions

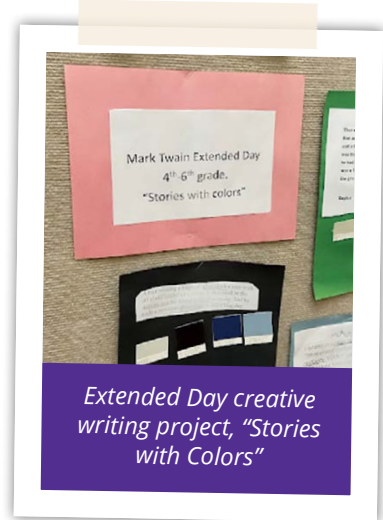
The annual Attendance Awareness Poster Contest is another community collaboration involving CCOE, the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), the Calaveras County Sheriff, and the Calaveras County District Attorney. Students compete in two grade-level groups, demonstrating through art the importance of attendance. The



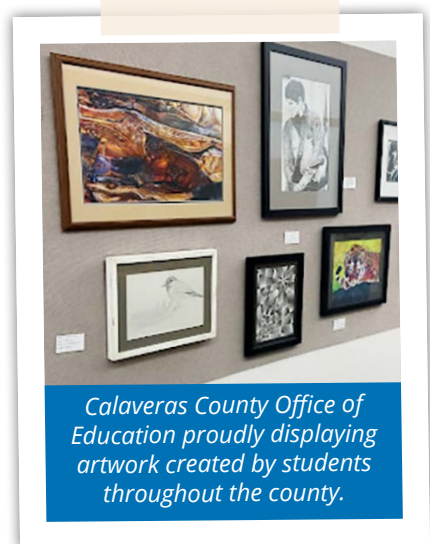
The 2022 Attendance Awareness Poster Contest winning poster.

campaign involves educators, students, parents, and the community and effectively builds awareness about school attendance.

A few years ago, a STEM Advisory Council was formed by volunteer scientists who support CCOE's STEM student events. The council began with a STEM focus and recently expanded its scope to include the arts. CCOE works closely with the Calaveras STEAM Advisory Council to provide enrichment opportunities for students. CCOE will continue to collaborate with the Calaveras STEAM Advisory Council as it considers the many ways to support arts education and enrichment.



Extended Day creative writing project, "Stories with Colors"



Calaveras County Office of Education proudly displaying artwork created by students throughout the county.

