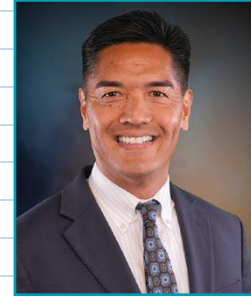


El Dorado County

Art is an essential component to every child's development. It is a universal language and allows students to express themselves creatively. Through our countywide programs and school districts, we work to enrich the lives of our students with artistic knowledge of the past and inspiration for the future.

- Ed Manansala, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools



El Dorado County Office of Education ■ Contact: Ed Manansala, emanansala@edcoe.org

Art plays an indispensable role in the holistic development of every child. It is a universal language, providing students with a creative outlet for self-expression. Through our comprehensive countywide initiatives and collaborative efforts with various school districts, we diligently endeavor to enhance the lives of our students by imparting knowledge of artistic traditions from the past and igniting inspiration for the future. These efforts are driven by a shared commitment to nurturing creative talent, and fostering a love for the arts among our youth.

SUGARLOAF FINE ARTS CAMP PROVIDES LIFE-LONG MEMORIES

The El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) is dedicated to forging partnerships with fifteen diverse school districts and the local community to champion the cause of arts education throughout our county. One such notable initiative is the Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp, an esteemed institution that delivers exceptional skills instruction within a secure and enjoyable camp environment. This weeklong summer camp accommodates approximately 400 students, grades 5-12. It offers a diverse range of artistic



disciplines, including visual arts, theatre, video production and editing, vocal performance, textile arts, and digital photography. Campers engage in immersive instruction, receiving over four hours of daily tutelage in their chosen art medium. This instruction is delivered by a cadre of certified teachers and seasoned professional artists, with the camp also benefiting from the expertise of many El Dorado County teachers and alumni camp staff. Through general and elective classes, attendees are encouraged to explore innovative avenues of artistic expression. Over several decades, the camp has garnered immense popularity, necessitating the implementation of a lottery system for attendee selection. The camp not only equips participants with valuable artistic skills but also fosters enduring friendships and cherished memories. Notably, the Sugarloaf Station Foundation's

unwavering support ensures that no student faces exclusion from this transformative experience due to financial constraints.

EL DORADO COUNTY STUDENTS BRING THE WRITTEN WORD TO LIFE

In another inspirational initiative, every spring sees the convergence of more than 400 students grade 4-8 from over 28 schools across El Dorado County at the Oral Interpretation Festival. This event, hosted by the Pioneer Union School District, provides a platform for small groups of children to bring the written word to life through interpretive poetry and prose performances. Participants can choose from renowned literary works or craft original compositions. Following each performance, volunteer evaluators, members of the audience, and fellow students offer constructive feedback and encouragement to the young orators.



It is important to note that this event is not a competition but a nurturing space for honing public speaking and presentation skills. Distinguished judges, including members of the EDCOE team, district representatives, community members, and local leaders such as the El Dorado County Sheriff and County Supervisors, actively contribute to the success of this event.

GOLD COUNTRY JAZZ FESTIVAL CELEBRATES MANY SCHOOLS

The annual Gold Country Jazz Festival (GCJF), hosted by the Ponderosa High School Band Program in El Dorado County, exemplifies our dedication to fostering a rich musical culture within our region. This festival's non-competitive spirit extends a warm invitation to schools from neighboring regions and counties. Its core objective lies in promoting the growth of jazz education in local music programs. Participating groups receive valuable feedback from top jazz educators through written assessments and recorded evaluations. Furthermore, an onstage clinic allows parents to engage in the learning process alongside their children. The festival reaches its culmination with an awards ceremony and a captivating performance by a guest ensemble. In the past, we have hosted celebrated musical groups, such as the Sacramento State Jazz Ensemble, the Sacramento Jazz Orchestra, and the Commanders Jazz Ensemble from the US Air Force Band of the Golden West.

TAHOE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EMBRACES THE ARTS WITH OPEN ARMS

At Tahoe Valley Elementary School, situated within the Lake Tahoe Unified School District, the arts are not merely an adjunct to the instructional day but deeply ingrained in the school's culture.



The school's overarching vision revolves around nurturing well-rounded students who embody 21st-century skills through the arts. Our dedicated educators labor tirelessly to provide children transformative learning experiences, enabling them to develop character, creativity, critical thinking, communication proficiency, and collaboration skills. We also instill an appreciation for the aesthetic values inherent in the Creative and Performing Arts. These efforts aim to cultivate self-confident, motivated, compassionate, and socially conscious citizens. Our diverse programs encompass activities such as a painting social for students, and the production of plays, including presentations like *Seussical the Musical*. The success of this comprehensive approach to student learning hinges on the collaborative synergy of our dedicated staff, families, and students working in unison. We warmly welcome all individuals into our vibrant learning community, and the positive impact on student attitudes is palpable.

STUDIO 81: 60 YEARS OF DRAMATIC EXCELLENCE AT EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL

For 25 years, Paul Tomei, the dedicated Drama Director at El Dorado High School, has honed young theatrical talents. The curriculum includes two beginner and two advanced drama classes, complemented by a theater tech course that seamlessly integrates

with woodshop and welding classes to create stunning sets and props. Operating under the name "Studio 81" since 1981, the program thrives in a transformed woodshop, now a dynamic black box theater. Over six decades, only three mentors have guided this artistic journey, with Paul Tomei as the current leader. The recent production of *The Little Mermaid* drew an audience of 3,000, with 90 students showcasing their talents, including youngsters ages six to ten, and a vibrant middle school choir. The program's core goal is to engage the community in its tapestry of creativity. Moreover, several alumni have made significant strides in the industry. One notably worked with Disney on *Lizzie and Maddie*, while another is immersed in Broadway productions. Additionally, an enterprising individual established an adult theatre company, See the Elephant, right here in El Dorado. These successes speak to Paul Tomei's outstanding mentorship, cultivating a new generation of theatre professionals poised for greatness.



The El Dorado County Office of Education remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing the arts. It provides rich opportunities for our students to explore their creative potential and express themselves. These initiatives are a testament to the collaborative spirit and unwavering dedication of our educators, families, and community partners who collectively strive to enrich the lives of our youth through the transformative power of the arts. Together, we shape a brighter, more artistic future for our students and community.