

El Dorado County

El Dorado County Office of Education
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“Art is an essential component to every child’s development. It is a universal language and gives students the opportunity to express themselves creatively. Through our county-wide 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, Ed.D., El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools



The El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) partners with 15 diverse school districts and the community to provide leadership and resources that promote arts throughout the county.

Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp Provides Life-long Memories

EDCOE administers the *Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp* which delivers outstanding arts instruction in a fun, safe and supportive camp environment. During the weeklong summer camp, approximately 400 students (grades 5-12) expand their skills in visual arts, theatre, video, vocal, textile, digital photography, video editing and more. Campers participate in over four hours of daily instruction in their chosen art medium taught by a combination of certificated teachers and professional artists. Many El Dorado County teachers and camp alumni staff the camp and ensure attendees have the

opportunity to explore new ways to express themselves during general and elective classes. Over the last several decades, the camp has become so

popular that a lottery system helps to select those who may attend camp. Campers make lifelong memories and friends through their experiences. Due to a strong partnership with the Sugarloaf Station Foundation and the scholarships they provide, no student is denied access to the camp because of financial hardship.



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El Dorado County Students Bring the Written Word to Life!

Every spring, more than 400 fourth through eighth-grade students representing over 28 schools from across El Dorado County bring the written word to life at the *Oral Interpretation Festival*, hosted by Pioneer Union School District. Small groups of children hurry to classrooms across campus to deliver interpretive performances of poetry and prose. Some students chose from famous works of literature, while others compose original pieces. After every performance, a volunteer evaluator, members of the audience and student peers give the orators complimentary and suggestive advice. The event is not a competition but a safe place to help enhance public speaking and presentation skills. Judges include EDCOE and district team members, members of the community and local distinguished leaders such as the El Dorado County Sheriff and County Supervisors.

Gold Country Jazz Festival Celebrates Many Schools

The Annual Gold Country Jazz Festival (GCJF) is hosted by the Ponderosa High School Band Program in El



Dorado County and welcomes schools from across the region and county lines. The purpose of the GCJF is to encourage the growth of jazz education in area's music programs. The

festival is non-competitive with participating groups receiving written and recorded feedback from top jazz educators, as well as an onstage clinic where parents get to hear the feedback and be involved in the learning process. The festival culminates in an awards ceremony and performance by a guest ensemble. In the past guests enjoyed performances by 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 Schools Embraces the Arts with Open Arms

At Tahoe Valley Elementary School, in the Lake Tahoe Unified School District, the arts are not simply one part of the instructional day, they are embedded in the school's culture. The school's vision is to develop well-



rounded students who embody 21st Century skills through the arts. Educators work tirelessly

to provide children with learning experiences that will enable them to develop character, creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills, an appreciation of the aesthetic values in the Creative and Performing Arts, to become self-confident, motivated, caring, and socially conscious citizens. Programs include a *Paint and Sip* time for students and the production of plays such as *Seussical the Musical*. Tahoe Valley believes this comprehensive approach to student learning can only be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of their dedicated staff, families and students working together. They welcome everyone with open arms, and their students leave the day smiling.

Oak Ridge High School Visual and Performing Arts Bring Productions to Life

El Dorado Union High School District's Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills empowers its performing arts programs to achieve greatness for their students. When they produce a theatre production, the audience is transformed into a Broadway musical at the local level. Their dedicated team of theatre, music, and vocal directors guide students through the entire process including acting, vocal stylings, live band, set design, lighting, sound design, choreography, props and stage design, wardrobe, hair and makeup and more. Recent productions have included shows such as *Grease*, *The Odd Couple* and *The Little Mermaid*.