

Imperial County

Arts education is very personal to me. It's what kept me interested in school and has done the same for my own children. We know it positively impacts student learning, but more importantly, it enhances the quality of life for our students. The arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, must be a priority for us as we prepare our students for their life journey.

- J. Todd Finnell, Imperial County Superintendent of Schools



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STUDENT ARTS FESTIVAL

In 2023 Imperial County facilitated its first-ever student Arts Festival! This event, highlighting the talents of students from grades six to twelve, was a vibrant celebration of creativity and learning.

The Arts Festival showcased a diverse range of submissions, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, and digital art. It offered an opportunity to reflect the rich tapestry of artistic skills within our community. Beyond a mere exhibition, it served as a platform for students to explore and express their creativity, fostering both personal growth and skill development.



We look forward to this annual festival, a collaborative event that brings together teachers, parents, and the community to support and appreciate the artistic endeavors of our youth. We are confident that it will continue to attract the incredible talents that Imperial County has to offer.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: EXPANDING ARTS EDUCATION THROUGH PROP 28

Imperial County educators are passionately engaged in the *Increasing Access to Arts Education: Implementing Prop 28* series, a collaborative effort led by Region 9 Arts Leads from Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), San Diego COE, and Orange COE. This groundbreaking initiative was designed to unlock the potential of Proposition 28 and revolutionize arts education within our schools.

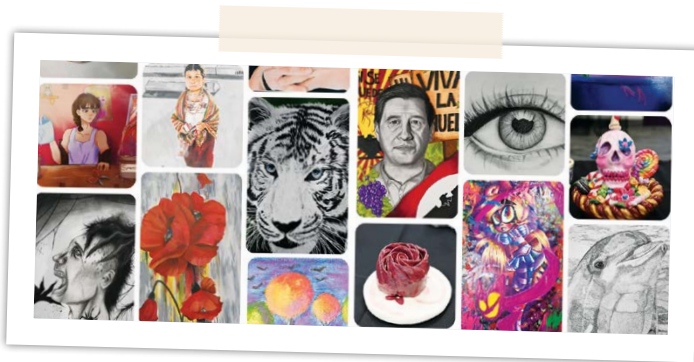
Across three dynamic sessions, education leaders immersed themselves in the California Arts Education Framework, envisioning a future where arts education isn't just an option but

a core pillar of every student's journey. Discussions weren't just about compliance but about crafting a bountiful integration of programs in dance, media, music, theatre, and visual arts—accessible to all students, thanks to the opportunities offered by Proposition 28 funding.

Through this process, leaders committed themselves to fostering a sequential, standards-based arts education program aimed at nurturing artistic literacy. Their goal was to ensure that students not only gain access to multiple art forms, but also master the ability to understand, create, perform, present, respond to, and connect through these art disciplines. Discussions unveiled exciting possibilities for TK-12 education, emphasizing a seamless integration of arts into the curriculum, enriching students' lives through authentic experiences that transcend boundaries.

Imperial County stands poised to build upon this initial momentum and embrace the transformative power of Proposition 28. ICOE remains dedicated to empowering Local Education Agencies to harness these funds effectively, ensuring that every student receives a well-rounded education including robust arts programs.

We look forward to embarking on this inspiring journey with the rest of the state of California, shaping a future where our students flourish and thrive, empowered by the profound impact of arts education.



AUTUMN AND THE ARTS

ICOE is committed to supporting arts education and making it a priority in Imperial County! Today more than ever, creativity and appreciation for the arts are important for all students to experience a well-rounded education. Each year, ICOE celebrates young artists from around Imperial County during its Autumn & the Arts Fundraiser. On October 5, 2023, over 100 community members and local businesses convened in support of art and education.

This exciting event helped showcase the talent of local students through an art exhibit featuring winning art pieces from the Imperial County Arts Festival. Most of the artwork goes up for auction, with proceeds directly benefiting the student artists in the form of scholarships.



Art provides students with a powerful medium to express their emotions, struggles, and interests, and ICOE is particularly proud to give them an avenue to share their art with the community.

"Hearing students speak about the meaning of their artwork is inspiring, and having an opportunity to share their talent is important to us all. It always brings such joy to share the amazing talent and creativity of our students with the community. We are very grateful for the passion and dedication of our teachers, who go above and beyond to instill in their students a love of art and to showcase their creations," said Dr. J. Todd Finnell, County Superintendent of Schools.