

Lassen County

The Lassen County Office of Education is excited and proud of the partnerships with our schools and community to provide various arts-related experiences to all students. We strongly believe that if we provide opportunities to expand students' horizons through the arts, whether through music, drama, photography, graphic arts, or painting, we are supporting students for their future and many possibilities.

- Patty Gunderson, Lassen County Superintendent of Schools



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Collaboration with community partners is essential to educating students in Lassen County. Through established partnerships and pooling of resources, we can provide high-quality experiences to all students in the arts. Working closely with local artists, we have leveraged resources, funding, materials, and the expertise to support and deliver cultural experiences to students.

It has been the goal of the Lassen County Office of Education (LCOE) to showcase the arts in all aspects of our programming for

students and schools through our various countywide events. During our participation in the Lassen County Fair, we have partnered with a local nonprofit arts organization, Amy's Corner, to create an art project with students, families, and community members that coordinates with the event theme, and explores the talents, creativity, and skills of each individual. This organization is also critical to our expanded learning programs and regular day arts activities. Through this partnership, students are exposed to the seven fundamental art elements of Line, Value, Color, Shape, Form, Space, and Texture.

The schools in Lassen County have joined in the commitment to expanding the horizons and skills of students through an arts education. Meadow View School hosts Arts Attack, a program allowing students to participate in arts education engagement activities. The program allows students to work on a school-wide art project such as a mural. Students developed the ideas, planned, and executed a mural in the cafeteria. Individually,



they participate in workshops and experiences related to the seven elements of art during their exploration.

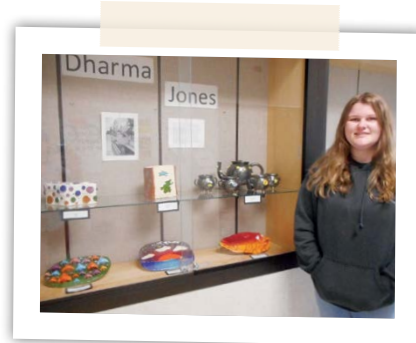
In one of the frontier areas of Lassen County, students and families can participate in the arts through several expanded learning programs and artist-in-residence experiences. One of the culminating opportunities at the Westwood Unified School District is a school community paint night. Students, families, and the community use the skills and lessons they have acquired to create an artist-guided painting. Johnstonville Elementary School District also provides “cocoa and paint” social cultural experiences to their families. Through these events, students shared their learning and skills in the arts with their families and community members.

Lassen High School is committed to bringing art experiences to its students through in-class programs and clubs. One of the most popular is the drumline, which began as a vision of music instructor Ben Wade, and has proven to engage students in a music education that has led them to be one the most sought-after cultural presenters at elementary schools and events in the county. The rhythm of the drum performances engages audiences of all ages.



Through graphics arts, led by instructor Dawn Egan, students get to explore the world of digital arts, design, and the business aspects of this industry, as well as completing the steps to becoming Adobe software certified. Local organizations utilize the services of these students to have projects developed, printed, or formatted for digital use. In the advanced course, students learn such techniques as fast shutter speed using smoke bombs. Students take photos on various types of cameras, and crop and edit them to make the colors more vibrant, a technique used in marketing and advertising. Other opportunities in ceramics, sculpting, drama classes, and drama club, are focused on teaching and deploying arts skills and talents.

The LCOE's After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) and Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) have teamed up to bring the arts to our students in the most isolated places in our county. Through these programs, students learn and participate in arts activities that would not be possible through traditional, in-class instructional resources. Students are also exposed to arts and the cultural opportunities available to them within and beyond their communities through the LCOE Art Labs, a component of our mobile tinkering lab that travels to county schools providing hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) learning activities. Students are also exposed to dance through a partnership with J & J Performing Arts and the Susanville City Kickettes. Students are introduced to Jazz, Hip Hop, tumbling, modern dance, and other genres. Several performing artist-in-



residence programs have been included in the offerings.

With state funding, several districts have been able to add music and other arts curricula to their elective coursework. Many are leveraging their expanded learning programs to ensure that all students have access to arts education.