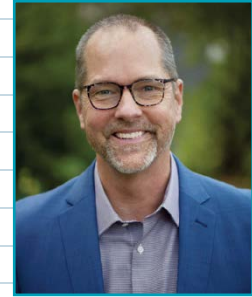


# Marin County

Integrating arts into K-12 curriculum isn't merely for the purpose of fostering creativity; it's about nurturing well-rounded individuals who can think critically, solve problems innovatively, and express themselves fluently. The arts are a fundamental component of a comprehensive education, enriching students' lives and preparing them for a future where creativity and adaptability are essential.

– John Carroll, Marin County Superintendent of Schools



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The Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) elevates early learning, content integration, youth voice, and partnerships to provide countywide opportunities to promote and engage students and educators in quality arts learning.

## FOCUS ON EARLY LEARNING AND INTEGRATION

MCOE's Early Childhood Education has thoughtfully partnered with Luna Dance & Creativity, a nationally recognized dance education organization, to provide a variety of professional learning opportunities to educators in the county. The Love, Move, Play series explores the essential nature of dance and movement for young children. Participants who engage in the six-week series, investigate early childhood development and neurocellular patterns in an embodied way, learn to facilitate

parent-child interactions using dance, integrate dance into emergent curriculum, activate circle time, and create stand-alone dance lessons with student choice and voice at the center.

In addition to the Love, Move, Play series, the Dance and the CA Preschool Learning Foundations series offers educators an opportunity to explore how dance intersects with the preschool learning. The interactive workshop series includes sessions on social and emotional learning, Math, Literacy, and Science play-based dance learning activities. All sessions are taught through a culturally responsive lens and center around cultivating belonging, inclusion, and community through creative dance play. Stipends, mini classroom grants, and coaching support are available to interested educators. The workshops are offered in English with live Spanish interpretation services.

Luna Dance & Creativity was also a featured facilitator for the annual Fall Early Learning Summit. The MCOE, Marin Quality Counts, and College of Marin collaborated in



hosting the full-day, in person, 2023 Summit: *Integrating Playful Learning*. Educators across the county joined together for a rich, interactive, learning, and sharing experience with colleagues and experts in the field.

The MCOE and Luna Dance & Creativity intentionally expand the vision of their partnership to deepen their relationship; increase the participant population to include those who work with infants to third grade; build professional learning communities around dance; and identify and support potential teacher leaders. Developing leadership from within the MCOE Early Childhood Education community will strengthen future programming and serve as a county advocacy team so that dance becomes a sustainable and integral part of early education for all children.



There's a profound benefit in discovering ways to integrate dance into professional learning that exists. Not only does this mirror how children learn and how dance is integrated in their learning, but it also supports the whole landscape of professional learning and allows for depth.

### FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIP AND YOUTH VOICE

In honor of May Mental Health Month, the Suicide Prevention Collaborative Youth Action team, in partnership with Marin County Office of Education, Marin County Health and Human Services, Marin County Youth Commission and Find Your Way, hosts an in-person Youth Art and Film Showcase. This annual event shares youth art and perspective with the goal to increase awareness and normalize conversations about mental health and well-being within Marin.

The Art and Film Showcase was initially created by a group of Marin County high school students as a way for young people to connect and express themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic. The original 2020 showcase was held virtually, and has grown to an in-person event, drawing an audience of over 100 attendees with close to 100 submissions and featuring live performances.



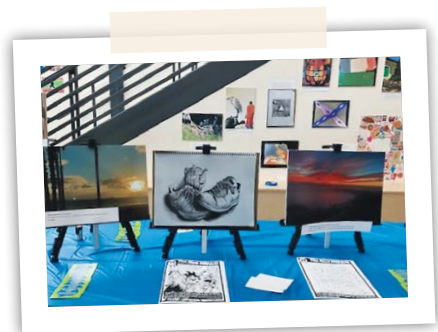
Students are encouraged to share art in response to prompts developed and refined annually by the Suicide Prevention Collaborative Youth Action Team. Art in any form is accepted, including photography, painting, digital art, poetry, sculpture, dance, music, video, and more.

This event is unique to the community because it offers an opportunity for community and connection. The showcase brings together young people from across Marin County to reflect and discuss the importance of mental health and well-being and to realize that everyone is an artist and has a story to share!

#### Prompts for the 2023 and 2024 showcase:

**HOPE:** Create art that shares your story and encourages others to find their own way to get through tough times. What do you see or experience in your life or community right now that gives you hope?

**JUSTICE:** Create art that shares your personal experience with discrimination or empowers others to advocate for justice. What barriers have you overcome and what impact has it had on your mental health?



**CONNECTION:** Everyone can take steps to care for their mental health or get help for someone else. You can check in with yourself or a friend, learn more about mental health, and get support when needed. Create art about your important connections with family, friends, and your community that help you or others stay grounded.

### FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIP AND INTEGRATION

The courtroom Art Contest is a competition that allows students with artistic interests the opportunity to participate in the Mock Trial Program. Contestants observe their schools' in-person Mock Trials and create drawings of the courtroom scenes. Each Mock Trial Team may enter up to two courtroom artists. The winner of the county contest is eligible to compete at the state Mock Trial Finals. In 2023, artist Beth Hayes from San Marin High School in Novato advanced to the state Mock Trial competition alongside Tamalpais High School.

