

# Mendocino County

Through programs like the Get Arts in the Schools Program grant, California Poets in the Schools, and the Young Authors' Fair, Mendocino County Office of Education is committed to fostering creativity and innovation in our students. Access to high-quality arts education not only empowers youth to explore, articulate, and connect, but also equips them with critical thinking skills and cultural awareness. An investment in arts education cultivates the next generation of creative thinkers and problem solvers.

- Nicole H. Glentzer, Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools



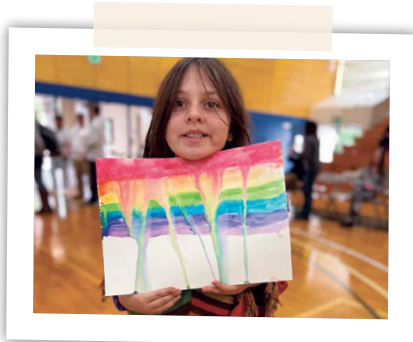
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Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) has a goal of meeting the social emotional needs and content knowledge of our students and school communities through arts integration and celebration. MCOE supports arts integration professional learning through sponsorship and support of arts programs, and grants that benefit students and teachers in our county. Young Authors' Fair, Get Arts in the Schools Program (GASP), Poets in the Schools (PITS) and the Educator Science Retreat are some of the programs that focus on standards-aligned artistic skills and content while also supporting other subject areas.

## GET ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

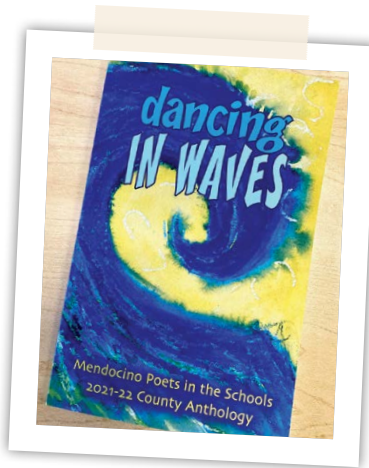
The Mendocino Arts Council and MCOE kicked off the 19th Annual GASP program this year. GASP is funded by the MCOE and private donors. The goal of the program is to infuse arts in the core curriculum to deliver quality, standards-based artistic experiences to TK-12 students throughout Mendocino County. The grant is designed to pay a living wage to artists while bringing exciting and creative experiences

to students. Artists work closely with classroom teachers and after-school coordinators to integrate arts anchor standards, as well as studio habits of mind with core academic subjects. Teachers benefit from the partnership by gaining exposure to current artistic techniques and instructional strategies based on the current Arts Framework. GASP has supported artistic mediums as diverse as theatre, poetry, printmaking, new media arts, symphonies, dance, and more.



## SCIENCE RETREAT FOR EDUCATORS

The 2nd annual MCOE Educator Science Retreat for educators brought an infusion of arts integration ideas to teachers throughout Mendocino County and beyond. Educators experienced nature journaling from the perspective of both teacher and learner to build their own connections between the NGSS Crosscutting Concepts of patterns, structure and function, proportion and scale, and systems and models through the studio habits of mind. Back in the classroom, this will enable students to develop craft, engage and persist, envision, express, observe, reflect, stretch, and explore. Teachers left with the agency to nature journal with their students, and leverage student curiosity and creativity to build understanding. Teachers also explored various bookbinding techniques as part of a section on Universal Design for Learning, and novel methods for students to make their thinking visible. Both math and arts standards were addressed and assessed during the lesson with beautiful outcomes.



## CALIFORNIA POETS IN THE SCHOOLS

An affiliated branch of California Poets in the Schools, the MCOE Poets in the Schools (PITS) is kicking off another exciting year. PITS poets are a community of trained, published poet-teachers who bring experience for their craft into classrooms. Poet teachers help foster an appreciation for poetry and encourage students to develop their poetic voice. PITS helps students celebrate their creativity, intuition and intellectual curiosity through poetry and the creative writing process. An anthology of student poetry is collected and printed annually, and students who are published receive a copy. In addition, students are given the opportunity to participate in coastal and countywide poetry slams.



## HIGHLIGHTING THE "A" IN STEAM

At the first annual STEAM Expo in spring 2023, the A in STEAM was highlighted as students from across the county expressed their creativity through logos, sculpture and paintings about the theme, "Mendocino Resilience." We are hoping to grow the art gallery at the Expo in the coming years. The theme for the 2024 Expo is "Sustainable Mendocino."



Mendocino County has deep roots in the arts community, and teachers are excited to use instructional practices based on the California Arts Education Framework to support students' social emotional wellbeing while developing their content knowledge and skills. MCOE is committed to supporting our schools in this venture and we look forward to students enjoying the process while we enjoy bearing witness to their creations and personal development.