

Merced County

Merced County Office of Education

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“ I heard someone say recently that ‘talent is equally distributed across our student population, but opportunity isn’t.’ I believe this to be true and it is our mission at Merced County Office of Education that we find ways to nurture and develop the talent of our Merced County children whenever and wherever we can. Our districts and community leaders believe this too, and that is why the arts are flourishing in Merced County.”



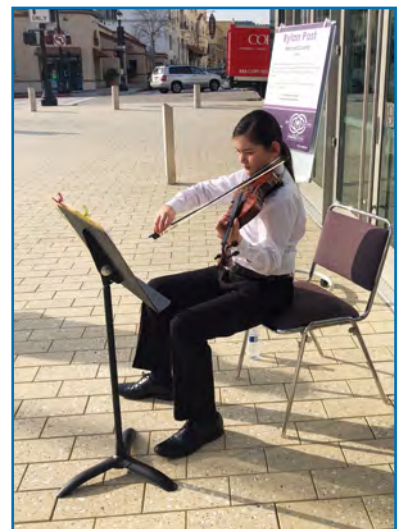
– Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D., Merced County Superintendent of Schools

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Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) has placed premium resources on arts education by hiring Arts Education consultant Noelle Chandler, who serves as a primary contact for schools and districts interested in furthering their arts experiences and advocacy. Noelle has trained After School Student Education: Teamwork for Success (ASSETS) teachers, worked with MCOE’s special ed program, and taught in ten different districts in the county, as well as run county-wide programs like *Broadway Show Choir* and *STRUT*, a county-wide talent show.

MCOE is working directly with the Merced County Arts Council to run *Poetry Out Loud* in Merced and send a

student to the state competition in Sacramento, as well as offering workshops and coordinated professional development sessions that integrate arts with NGSS, ELD, ELA, Technology/ Media Arts and more. In addition,



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work has begun on a strategic arts education plan for the county that will support all districts in partnering with local artists to provide professional, standards-based visual and performing arts education. In addition, Merced County is hosted CISC 2020 in Monterey, as will be providing numerous opportunities to attendees to be enveloped in dance, music, spoken word and visual arts from Merced County and beyond.



Arts @ MCOE (the VAPA resource program run by Miss Noelle) has partnered directly this year with Merced City Schools to provide support for their *Spotlight* program, an evening of talent which features a performance act from each of their 18 elementary and middle schools. By creating a menu of options and offering appropriate resources to connect schools to artists, Arts @ MCOE helped support the MCOE practice of advocating for and valuing arts in the classroom and after school at all sites in Merced.



“ To encourage literature and the arts is a duty which every good citizen owes to his country. ”

- George Washington