

# Modoc County

Our goal is to support all Modoc County students in every way possible to receive the very best arts education. In our small remote area it is not always possible to expose our students to the arts in everyday life, but our educators do an incredible job of providing impactful opportunities for our students around the arts, and I am proud to be part of the support behind that.

- Mike Martin, Modoc County Superintendent of Schools



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## MODOC COUNTY ENCOURAGES ART IN SCHOOLS

The Modoc County Office of Education (MCOE) believes that arts education is incredibly important to the students in our county. MCOE is committed to ensuring that all students in the county are exposed to a comprehensive visual and performing arts curriculum such as music, digital media, theatre, and visual arts. Such opportunities have lent themselves to creative thinking, improved responsibility, and teamwork amongst the student population which will better prepare them for college, career, and beyond.

## PROMOTING MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOM

One of our local districts, Modoc Joint Unified School District (MJUSD), provides a comprehensive music program that spans K-12. Elementary students learn music vocabulary, reading music, and understanding rhythms, all while learning to play and sing. Since 2020, MJUSD music and band program has almost doubled in size.



*"Our goal for the music program at Modoc Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) is that EVERYONE can make music (and should)! Students are celebrated daily which makes them feel valued and special. Curiosity is promoted and perseverance is encouraged within the MJUSD music program."*  
Chris Armstrong, K-2 Music Teacher

In December 2023, both the middle and high school music programs were on full display at the annual Holiday Extravaganza. This is where the Modoc Middle School band is incorporated with the Modoc High School (MHS) music programs to produce a secondary holiday performance. This performance always has a full house in the MHS gym, which demonstrates the community support that we have for our growing program. Our county is so thankful for the community's support of the arts.

This fall also brought the opportunity to take a group of middle and high school students to the Nevada State Marching



Band Championships where some of the best bands in Nevada performed, including the University of Nevada Wolfpack Marching Band. This experience has fueled our band's excitement and enthusiasm for many upcoming events, such as the Northern Regional Solo Festival, the spring concert, and an end of the year rock concert.

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PROVIDE GROWING OPPORTUNITIES**

The Drama Club at MHS is also flourishing. Students take part in both fall and spring productions, and engage in a music collaboration with the advanced choir. The play selection is done by a student committee and takes the format of a student showcase featuring short ten-minute plays and musical numbers. It has become hugely popular among the student body. Students receive instruction in acting method, vocal presentation skills, tech (lighting and sound), and set construction. Every year, Drama Club students take a trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in Ashland, Oregon, to see plays, participate in tours and have discussions with the professional actors. Students love



this trip and are really inspired by the world class shows that the OSF company presents. Modoc County is also very fortunate to work in conjunction with local groups such as the Modoc Performing Arts Theatre, which includes a cast of local students of all ages.

In Tulelake, art and music education takes place in the classroom. Teachers work diligently to incorporate both the visual and performing arts into their daily instruction. At the high school, students have the opportunity to take both art and yearbook classes. Students in yearbook class are tasked to take pictures and video throughout the school year, and create the annual year-end video yearbook that is played for the entire school during the last week of school.



Surprise Valley, despite being small, has created a flourishing performing arts program. Their director, Heather Bordwell, has worked tirelessly to provide students the means and opportunity to shine on stage. Community members can expect performances both in the winter and the spring from their students.

