

# Mono County



Exposure to the arts and the process of creating art is so important in providing opportunities for student self-discovery and connections to their world. We value the arts for themselves, and also how they create pathways for students to actively engage with history, science, and other academic areas. We understand the value of the arts in not only developing creativity but also growing the ability to see things differently. Arts education also provides a pathway to social emotional health for students that cannot be underestimated. The Mono County Office of Education is committed to continuing its support of arts programs in all our Mono County schools and communities.



– Stacey Adler, Mono County Superintendent of Schools

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## MONO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION (MCOE) REVISES STRATEGIC ARTS EDUCATION PLAN

In 2018, the California Alliance for Arts Education and the California County Superintendents invited MCOE Superintendent, Stacey Adler, to engage in a process of strategic planning for arts education. The goal of the planning was to expand access and equity to high-quality arts education for every student throughout Mono County.

In 2023, MCOE began guiding the process of updating and revising our Strategic Arts Education Plan. In concert with our long-time partner, Mono Arts Council (MAC), we invited teachers from our two districts, Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD) and Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD); members of our communities including parents; the county librarian and representatives of the library's youth programs, such as Makerspace and Young Readers; the Bridgeport Indian Colony; and the director of the Mammoth Lakes Repertory

Theatre. We have held the first of four collaborative sessions with engaged participation from all attendees.

After adopting the plan in 2018, MCOE in collaboration with MAC, planned for our Create Eastern Sierra Summer Arts Institute (CESSAI) to launch in June 2020. The goal of this two-day institute was to offer workshops on arts integration in the regular classroom as one more way to tap students' creativity and critical thinking. Due to COVID 19 this launch was postponed until summer 2021, and was held 100% online with guest speakers Meryll Goldberg, Professor of Music and Arts Integration, California State University, San Marcos, and Louisa Higgins, Visual and Performing Arts Administrator, Riverside County Office of Education. This institute was well attended. In 2022, we expanded the partnership and included the Inyo County Office of Education for the second CESSAI. This partnership continued throughout the 2022-2023 school year with arts integration workshops

offered to educators within both counties. Through CESSAI and arts integration workshops, MCOE has worked diligently to assist our educators and students recover their joy of teaching and learning.

## STUDENT ARTWORK DISPLAYED

MCOE proudly displays student artwork in the main offices of both our north and south county locations. The displays are changed biannually and range from elementary pieces to high school projects.

## CALLIOPE LITERARY PUBLICATION

MCOE publishes *Calliope*, a literary and art magazine featuring the work of Mono County school students. Exemplary student writing and artwork is identified and submitted for publication. MCOE is thrilled to be able to provide a vehicle for our students to become "published authors and artists." This publication was interrupted from 2020 until 2022 but has continued in the 2023-2024 school year.



*MCOE's community school, JWCS, students create linocuts.*

### COLLABORATION MAKES ARTS HAPPEN

MAC is constantly growing and evolving our programs to fill the arts needs of the students of Mono County. MCOE currently partners with MAC to provide several programs in our schools. Create with the Greats provides all K-8 students with an art history lesson, and an art lesson and aims to include more Native American and Latinx artists. These lessons also incorporate social and emotional learning (SEL), as well as the opportunity to create and not always duplicate. Through the Arts for All program, we partner to provide regular, sequential arts programs to students at the Jan Work Community School and Sierra High School. The central focus of the Arts for All program is the development of personal artistic style through the exploration of

various art forms. The program is currently focusing on music by learning ukulele and visual arts using a variety of art mediums. The goal of the program is to provide students with these basic artistic skills to give them a foundation they can use for future careers in the arts, or at a minimum, creative thinking skills to use in all aspects of life.

### ARTS AND THE LIBRARY

MCOE has the privilege of operating the county's public libraries. Storytime is offered for children 2-5 years old and includes songs, stories, and hands-on activities to help promote early learning skills such as executive function, fine and gross motor skills and imaginative play. This reinforces the connection between exposure to literature and the arts with a project the children can take home and enjoy. Itty Bitty Rhyme Time is intended for younger children, aged 0-24 months, and includes songs, rhymes & fingerplays as well as a book followed by hands-on activities to help promote early learning skills such as tactile exploration, creative exploration, and fine and gross motor skills. Both programs aim to foster social interaction for children and their big humans. In 2023, the Mono County Libraries launched the Wee Connect Campaign to help better connect families with other families and resources, specifically families with young children aged 0-5. As trusted, welcoming, and helpful spaces, the seven Mono County library locations have become one of the go-to spots to learn about the free services available to families with young children.

### A PLACE FOR CREATIVITY: MAKERSPACE

The Mono County Library System's dedicated Makerspace is an inclusive, hands-on learning environment for school-age

children and adults. It is a safe place for engaging in a variety of creative projects. Makerspace cultivates social and emotional skills that translate beyond the physical space to improve themselves, their peers, and Mono County communities.

### PROPOSITION 28

On July 31, 2023, MCOE hosted a two-day, two-county administrative retreat attended by superintendents, site and program administrators of Inyo and Mono counties. The agenda included a Proposition 28 Bootcamp presentation by Louisa Higgins, Arts Administrator, Instructional Services Unit, Education Services Division, California County Superintendents Region 10 Arts Lead; and Peggy Burt, Arts Education Consultant, Los Angeles County Office of Education and Mindful Strategies, Inc. The presentation was informative and was followed by an in-depth Q&A session. Districts in Mono County are busy putting their Proposition 28 dollars to work by expanding their arts programs.

MCOE is committed to continuing the revision of our Strategic Arts Education Plan, providing ongoing professional development opportunities for our educators, and asking our districts, "How can we support your arts programs?"



*LVES students participate in Create with the Greats: Basquiat*



*LVES students participate in Create with the Greats: Kollwitz*