

Mono County

Mono County Office of Education

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“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, but also how they create pathways for students to actively engage with history, science and other academic areas. We cannot underestimate the value of the arts in developing creativity and the ability to see things differently. Mono County Office of Education is committed to continuing its support of arts programs in all of our Mono County schools and communities.”



- Stacey Adler, Ph.D., Mono County Superintendent of Schools

Mono County Office of Education (MCOE) Adopts Strategic Plan

In 2018 the California Alliance for Arts Education and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) invited Mono County Office of Education Superintendent, Dr. 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. Dr. Adler was eager to participate and engaged a diverse group of stakeholders that included teachers, county and district leaders, parents and community arts partners to bring their ideas to the planning table. The Mono County Office of Education's Strategic Arts Education Plan was created and adopted and is dedicated to contributing to Mono County as a thriving arts region.

Since the plan adoption MCOE has received the Rural County Cohort Implementation Grant and participated

in the cohort meetings. In addition, MCOE has sent educational leaders to the following arts leadership trainings: Los Angeles County Office of Education's *Technology Enhanced Arts Learning Scale-Up (TEAL)*, Rural County Arts Cohort Orientation/Training, *Arts Now Community Leadership Training* and *TEAL Scale-Up Professional Development*. Mono COE presented at the CCSESA Rural County Arts Cohort Convening in April 2020.



In November, 2019 MCOE and the Mono Arts Council (MAC) held our California Alliance for Arts Education Arts Now Launch for Mono County advocacy. We also held

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our first professional development for Arts Integration and Social Emotional Learning Strategies.

MCOE and MAC are proud to announce the first ever *The Create Eastern Sierra Summer Arts Institute* will take place on June 16-17, 2021. This is a series of arts integration and social emotional learning strategies (SEL) workshops taught by teaching artists. We are excited to launch this new

professional development opportunity!

Student Art Work Displayed

Mono County Office of

Education (MCOE) proudly displays student art work 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.”

Collaboration Makes Art Happen

Mono Arts Council (MAC) is constantly growing and evolving our programs to fill the arts needs of the students of Mono County. We currently partner with MCOE to provide a program called *MAC Master Artists*. All K-8 students are provided with an art history lesson and an art lesson. The lessons incorporate SEL, as well as, the opportunity to create and not always duplicate. MAC is currently offering an after-school digital arts/mixed-media program to most of Mono County. Students are learning stop-motion animation while creating their own 2D and 3D art projects. We also provided PE teachers in the county with PD training to integrate ballroom dance and SEL into their curriculum through a program called the *Dance Education Project*.

Collaboration Makes Music Happen

Also in collaboration with MAC, MCOE was a major sponsor of the 2015 inaugural *June Lake Jam Fest*, where all children and all Mono county school students could attend free. MCOE funded school assemblies with performances by *Jam Fest* artists prior to the event. MCOE continues to sponsor *Summer Music Camps* for Mono County students where students explore different instruments, music genres and are featured performers at the *JL Jam Fest*. Through this kind of collaboration, children are exposed to multiple sensory explorations that we hope lead to a life of choices that bring fulfillment and joy to the individual and to the communities where they live.

ARTS and the Library

MCOE has the responsibility of operating our public libraries. Story time is offered for young children which includes a related craft following the story. This reinforces the connection between exposure to literature and the arts with a project the children can take home and enjoy. Annual summer reading programs based on a theme encourage students to explore literary creativity and also includes an arts activity. Some libraries partner with the MAC to host afterschool arts programs and the Friends of the Library is sponsoring a contest for young people to submit creative works in photography, mixed-media and writing with the winners having their submissions published in a book. Music programs are offered at the library with special programs offered to invited school classes to help expose them to musical styles and instruments.

A Place for Creativity - Makerspace

Most County libraries offer some degree of afterschool maker activities, with the flagship Makerspace located in the Mammoth Lakes Library. The Makerspace Coordinator applies her MFA to developing engaging maker projects that range from sewing, jewelry-making and mask-making to robotics and model-building. Soon we'll be offering activities that teach basic printmaking techniques and joint programs with the youth programs to create zines and graphic novels.