

# Plumas County

Participating in the arts in school has numerous benefits for students. It helps to develop creativity, self-expression, and critical thinking skills, as well as providing a platform for students to showcase their talents and gain confidence. Additionally, exposure to the arts can broaden students' perspectives and help them to appreciate diverse cultures and perspectives.

- *William Roderick, Plumas County Superintendent of Schools*



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## **INTEGRATING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND THE ARTS**

Community collaboration and partnerships as well as community service are important experiences our students need as we prepare them for the real world. In April 2023, Portola High School artists partnered with local nonprofit High Sierra Animal Rescue to bring awareness to animals in need of adopting and fostering. High school students in the pre-AP visual arts classes 'adopted' animals from the shelter by painting their portraits. Students had been learning acrylic painting

techniques, color mixing, and portraiture, and were able to use those newly acquired skills for an important cause. Finished paintings were donated to the rescue as a thank you and then were given to people who adopted those animals. Families of adoptees shared letters with the class of their pets' adoption, and pictures of the artwork in their homes. Portraits were also on display in the lobby of the shelter as well as in digital format at Plumas Arts Gallery during Student Art Month. This was a valuable lesson for students,



illustrating that art can be used to make real change by bringing awareness to a cause. Students got to experience this hands-on with this collaboration. Students were especially proud when the director of High Sierra Animal Rescue made a visit to meet the students and pick up their artwork.

### DISTRICT ART SHOW

All art programs across the district were invited to participate in Student Art Month at Plumas Arts in Quincy, CA. Art teachers submitted student projects to be displayed in the Plumas Arts Gallery for the month-long event, and it featured work from Plumas Charter, C. Roy Carmichael Elementary, Quincy Elementary, and Portola and Quincy Jr./Sr. High School. A digital presentation can be seen here.

<https://qrco.de/ben093>



Students attended the gallery opening and were proud to see their work displayed for the public.



### CTE GRAPHIC ARTS PROVIDES REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES

Students in Portola High School's graphic arts class just completed their first real world, client-based project. Principal Sara Sheridan was their client, soliciting them to create a logo and branding kit for the school's "Feather River Shootout" basketball tournament. Students had client meetings, learned about their audience, did research, and sketches, and then got hands on industry standard software to create original logos. They had real world experience with the design process and technical skills development. Teacher Elisabeth Henson facilitated peer critique sessions and students gave each other feedback to improve their designs. Students then submitted their work to their client, and a single logo was selected. Students then created marketing and branding packages with the selected logo to be used for the tournament's print graphics and web media. Engagement was highly enthusiastic with this class of twenty students, and they were excited to have the opportunity to do something for their school. It also encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones communicating with their client and peers while using their design skills.