

San Benito County

We know that an arts education helps students develop critical thinking and further motivates them to learn and excel academically. Arts education stimulates creativity and innovation that supports all areas of academics. Arts education plays a significant role in supporting a well-rounded education, especially for disadvantaged students who are less likely to have access to arts instruction outside of the school setting.

– **Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools**



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As the San Benito County Office of Education (SBCOE) continues to prioritize the academic success and wellbeing of its students, it understands the importance of incorporating art into education. Not only does research confirm that art in education leads to better academic outcomes, but it also enhances the human experience, and contributes to a more fulfilling and well-rounded education.

To fulfill its strategic arts plan and provide students with incredible opportunities for artistic expression, SBCOE has formed significant partnerships with valuable individuals and organizations. The San Benito County Arts Council, Region 5 VAPA Collaborative, and renowned arts educational consultant Peggy Burt have been instrumental in supporting SBCOE's mission to incorporate art into education. These partnerships not only enhance the academic outcomes of students, but also provide capacity-building professional development opportunities for

teacher leaders. In collaboration with community partners, SBCOE has created a comprehensive approach that ensures students receive a holistic education that includes the arts, not as an extra, but as a fundamental component.

ARTS INTEGRATION COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The SBCOE is committed to building teacher capacity in the arts through the Arts Integration Community of Practice facilitated by Peggy Burt. This program brings together K-8 teachers for professional development, and exploration of integrating arts into subjects such as Math, English Language Arts, and Science, using a curriculum with pre-built lessons. By doing so, it provides teachers with the tools and knowledge necessary to enhance their students' academic outcomes and overall educational experience. Registration for the program has reached capacity, with a waiting list of teachers eager to participate. Through this program, the SBCOE is ensuring that teachers have the resources and support necessary

to incorporate art into education, ultimately enriching the lives of their students.

MURALS FOR RURALS

The innovative Murals for Rurals program is another example



of SBCOE's commitment to enhancing the artistic expression and educational experiences of its students. This program involves local artists working with students to design and paint large murals displayed prominently in the school. The students are enlisted to help in the painting process, which not only gives a sense of ownership but also fosters a sense of community spirit. The Murals for Rurals program provides a unique opportunity for students to work side-by-side with professional artists, and learn engaging art techniques while collaboratively beautifying their school and community.



TEACHING ARTISTS

The Teaching Artist program is an effective initiative that brings professional artists into the classroom to teach. The program is designed to provide students with an immersive experience in the arts while also embedding professional development for teachers. Through this program, students learn from experienced visual artists to enhance their own skills, while they get to study visual art disciplines alongside professionals currently working in the field. Teacher capacity in the arts is also enhanced by providing opportunities to learn from working artists and incorporate what they learn into their own teaching practice.



ARTS SHOWCASE

The flagship student art event of the San Benito County Office of Education is the SBCOE Arts Showcase, an event which provides a platform for young artists to display their work for the community. The showcase features thousands of works from multiple disciplines, including visual arts, music, dance, and theatre. Visitors enjoy live performances, workshops, displays, and food vendors. The SBCOE Arts Showcase is a venue for young artists to demonstrate their talents, build confidence, and gain recognition for their work. This event attracts hundreds of attendees, creating a vibrant and exciting atmosphere that celebrates the importance of art in education throughout the community.

The SBCOE is committed to integrating art into education through its various initiatives and partnerships, and recognizes the importance of providing students



with a well-rounded education that includes the arts as a fundamental component, while building teacher capacity in the arts. Providing students with unique opportunities to learn from professional artists, showcase their talents, and gain recognition for their work, all help SBCOE achieve its arts learning goals.

