

Trinity County

Trinity County Office of Education

Contact: Tim Nordstrom • tnordstrom@tcoek12.org

“*In Trinity County, where our local Arts Council is a strong and vibrant presence in our community, we recognize the importance of arts education. We know that research shows that art instruction positively enhances other skills including motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision making and inventiveness, to name just a few. This is why we don't just value arts education, we also organize, model lessons, and support many arts-related programs in our schools.*”



– Sarah E. Supahan, Trinity County Superintendent of Schools

Trinity County Office of Education

The Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE) supports the belief that participation in the arts is an effective way to address different modes of teaching and learning and is an essential component of the school curricula. Without education in the arts, there is a missing link in the development of the whole individual. To move arts education forward, it is vital to involve committed, highly qualified individuals who have administrative support that includes dedicated personnel, time and resources. TCOE supports a part-time arts coordinator position and it provides schools information on professional development opportunities, a lending library of materials, resources and lessons, an annual countywide student art show, “*MOBILE STEAM Team*”, *National History Day*, music instruction, local and traveling performing arts, the maintenance of a *Docent Arts Heritage Program* available for use by all county teachers, and the annual *California Native American Day* celebration featuring traditional arts, and consultation and mentoring for teachers and art educators.

Trinity Embraces Local Native History

The Trinity County American Indian Early Education Advisory Committee, among other activities, plans and implements an annual Tribal Villages Celebration for *California Native American Day*. They have created and distributed a curriculum guide for teachers linking the day's activities to California content standards in history/social science, reading/language arts, science, math, and the visual and performing arts.



The day is designed to honor the local tribes and Native community, features hands-on activities involving students

Trinity County

(grades 3-4) and teachers in authentic local arts, crafts, dance, storytelling, food and other traditions. Student and teacher participation include pre- and post-classroom standard-based activities related to local Native history, tradition and the arts.

Docent Program

The *Trinity County Arts Heritage Docent Program* consists of over 400 art reproductions divided into 70 portfolios. Portfolios are organized around themes and contain art prints and slides, videos, and CD's as well as text on each work of art and artist. Portfolios cover a wide variety of subjects relating to art, music, history, math and social science. Also included are suggestions for hands-on follow-up activities, enabling students to express what they have learned. The *Arts Heritage Docent Program* is available for check out to all teachers and local community art instructors and artists and brings breadth and depth to a comprehensive arts education.

Young Artist Showcase

The annual *Young Artist Showcase* has been a tradition of the Trinity County Office of Education for over 35 years, curating students' unique and creative artwork from all over the county throughout the month of April. We are especially grateful to the Highland Art Center Gallery for hosting this annual event. A special reception for the students and their families is held the first Saturday of April, sometimes drawing in hundreds of people to view the work and have an opportunity to vote on their favorites from paintings, pencil drawings, pottery, pastel, watercolor, 3D designs, and even wood-burned art from our local high school woodshop. Beginning in 2020, this event will be completely led and hosted by one of our local high school art classes. The students will hang and organize over 240 pieces and they will host the community reception at its opening night.

National History Day

National History Day is another annual event and is open to all 4-12th grade students and exhibits a variety of artistic disciplines. Students are able to produce exhibits, websites, documentaries, and write/act performance scripts. *National History Day* provides a unique outlet for students to creatively produce projects while focusing on academic standards.

Performing Arts and Music

With a rich music community, TCOE, along with the Trinity Arts Council, strives to bring in touring musical groups each year to introduce and expose students to a variety of musical genres and styles. This past year saw a fiddling poet from Alaska as well as supporting a local community musical production of the *Sound of Music*.

Lending Library

Due to the challenges of the rural and isolated geography of our county, TCOE has created a lending library of resources and activities which is available to all schools. The lending library lends out professional books, musical instruments such as violins, robotics, STEAM projects, and various art related tools to which teachers wouldn't normally have access. The highlight of the lending library is that teachers are utilizing it more and more, so much so that TCOE continues to purchase more items, such as violins, to support our music teachers at school sites.

MOBILE STEAM Team

Our frontier mobile *S.T.E.A.M.* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) team is on the move in its 5th consecutive year of existence. Travelling to various



classrooms all around the county, this team provides instruction and exposes students and teachers to hands-on *S.T.E.A.M.* activities. Students are able to participate in multiple cross-strand activities such as designing 3D objects for printing, building engineering designs, testing

creations, and acting in front of a green screen. This program reaches K-12th grade students and is available to all schools within the county. The highlight of the year is a culminating *STEAM EXPO* designed to feature student ideas, concepts, projects, creativity, and to encourage higher learning within Trinity County. TCOE collaborates with various community partners to make this event one of the most attended student events in the County.