

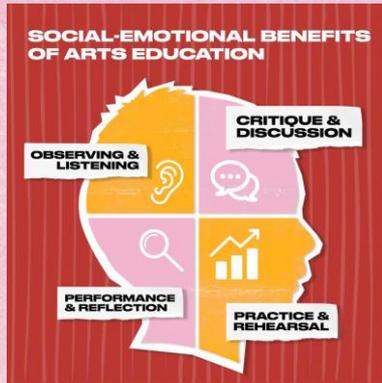
Arts Education in Nevada County Schools



Presented to
**Nevada County
Board of Supervisors**
In Celebration of
**National Youth Art
Month**

Scott W. Lay ~ Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
February 17, 2026

Why Arts Education?



“Students from low socio-economic backgrounds who participated in intensive arts experiences reached academic and civic engagement levels exceeding those of the general population.”

“Students’ aspirations for college attainment and professional careers positively related to arts participation.”

-California County Offices of Education, Aligning Arts Education and CA's Local Control Funding Formula, Arts Education Partnership

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE AN ARTS EDUCATION HAVE HIGHER LEVELS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT!



- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 4 times more likely to take part in math and science fairs
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance

CREATECA.ORG

PROVIDING STANDARDS-BASED ARTS EDUCATION IN ALL FIVE DISCIPLINES

DANCE · MEDIA ARTS · MUSIC · THEATRE · VISUAL ARTS



Furtheres Academic Goals



Enhances Student Engagement



Enhances Parent and Community Engagement



Contributes to Positive School Culture and Climate



Ensures Equitable Arts Learning for All Students



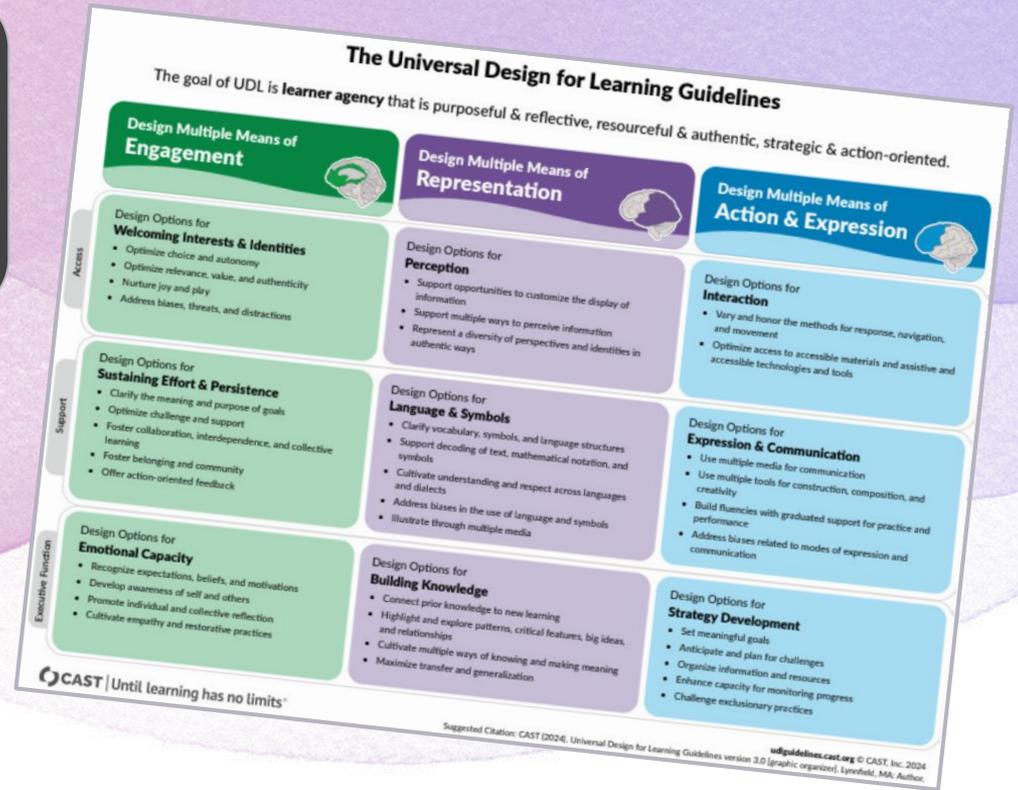
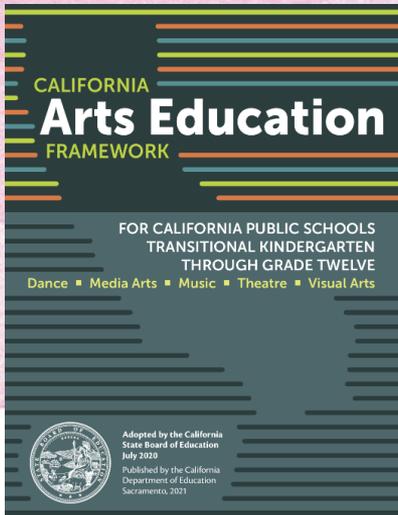
CREATE CA

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ARTS ARE
3X MORE LIKELY TO WIN AN AWARD FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

CREATECA

Guiding Documents for the Arts

- CA Arts Framework
- Universal Design for Learning Framework



The goal of a sequential standards-based arts education in California is to develop *artistic literacy*

...the ability to understand, **create**, **perform**, **respond**, and **connect** through the arts and transfer knowledge and skills learned from authentic experiences in the arts that transcend historical, cultural, and societal contexts.

-California Arts Education Framework

State Funding Sources	Description
<u>Local Control Funding Formula (LCAP)</u> (ongoing funding)	State's Funding formula for k-12 public schools
<u>Prop. 28: Arts and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative</u> (ongoing funding)	Approximately \$1 billion a year of ongoing funds for Arts Education
<u>Arts, Music & Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant</u> (one time funding available through 2025-2026)	For standard-aligned professional development & instructional materials in specified areas and other specified uses
<u>The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)</u> (ongoing funding)	Funding for afterschool & summer school enrichment programs TK-6th grade
<u>LCAP (INCREASED OR IMPROVED SERVICES)</u> (ongoing funding)	INcrease or improved services for Foster Youth, English Learners & Low Income Students

Major Funding Sources for the Arts

Federal Funding Sources: Title I - Title IV



PROP 28

JANUARY 2026 UPDATE

Proposition 28: the Arts and Music in Schools—Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (Prop 28 AMS) provides annual funding for arts education programs (approximately \$800 million to \$1 billion annually).

Prop 28: AMS is in addition to the **Prop 98 education funding guarantee**.

The range of funding received by Nevada County Schools:
\$957 to \$242,417

Average amount per pupil in Nevada County:
\$124

11 Districts/Charters have under 500 students.

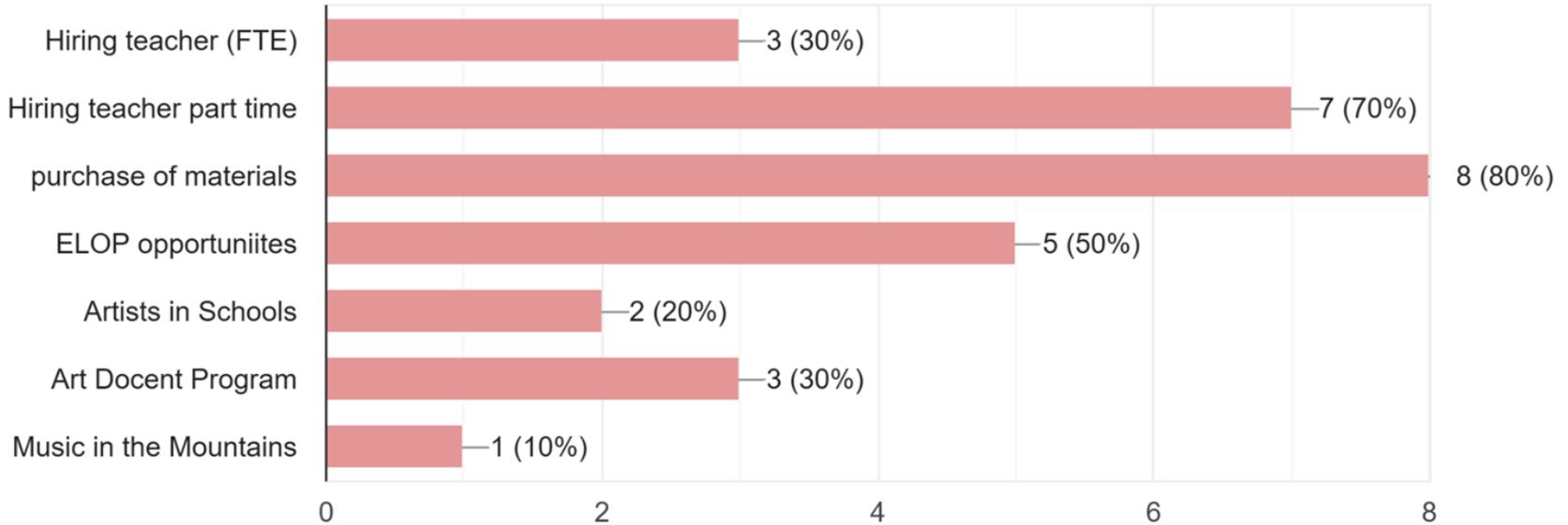
[Website to learn more about Prop 28](#)

Updates for the Arts in Nevada County Schools

Nearly 2,600 students accessing the Arts

In what ways has your site/district increased student access to the arts?

10 responses



How Nevada County schools increased access to the arts for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Added .6 music/arts teacher in combination with intervention/PE.
- 1st-5th participate 4 days a week. TK/K - 1 day a week
- ELO has specific days for Arts lessons

Art Docent for TK-6 and high school, art teacher for some high school electives, two periods of music each day

- Music and motion art teacher for TK-4th grade.
- Materials and supplies are purchased for that program.
- 100 students each week taking art classes at the Center for the Arts through ELOP.
- Wednesday art camps all year long provided through ELOP and by Artists in Schools.
- ELOP also partners with MIM and provides an after school violin program

TK- 9th grade music and TK-10th grade art lessons

.4 FTE music teacher

Kindergarten-5th grade have art classes once a week and 6-8 have art classes every other week. Kindergarten-8th grade have music class once a week as well.

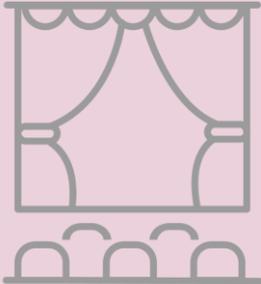
Hired a part time art teacher for grades 6-8

Added a teacher to teach art TK-8. Added a Media Arts Teacher as well. We utilize ELOP funds for after school art.

Added visual arts and media arts sections to our elective program & expanded ELOP opportunities

Musical theater 50 minutes per class a week K-8th

The 5 Arts Disciplines

Dance	Media Arts	Music	Theatre	Visual Arts
				

Meaning Making in the Arts Disciplines

Professional Development in the Arts

Community of Practice
for
Transitional Kindergarten &
Kindergarten Teachers &
Instructional Assistants

 Spark Language & Creativity
Through the ARTS

Skills Arts Activities Cultivate

Oral language

Making meaning

Analyzing

Revising

Listening

Building
vocabulary



Improvisation using The Actor's
Toolbox: Body, Voice & Imagination

The Arts in Nevada County Schools...

STEAM Arts Showcase & Competition

Nevada County Reads Student Writing Contest

Poetry Out Loud

Course Offerings

Student Productions

Meet the Masters

Young at Art

Community Opportunities

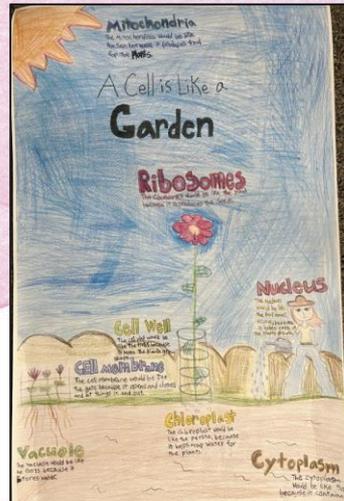
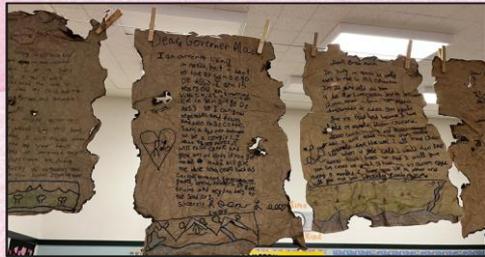
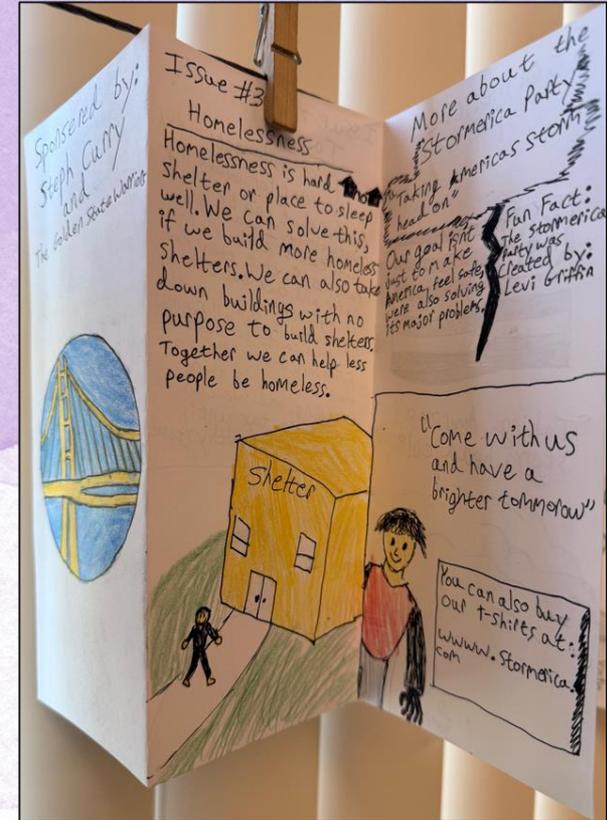
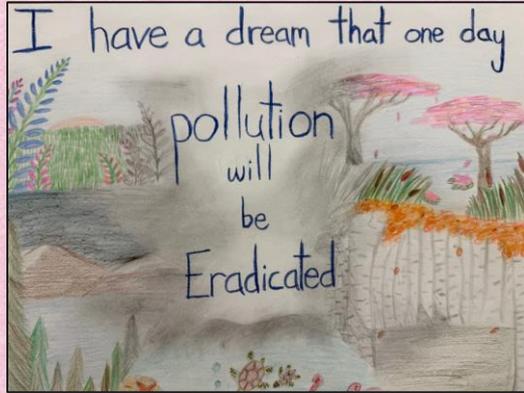
Art Docent Program Lessons

Student Performances

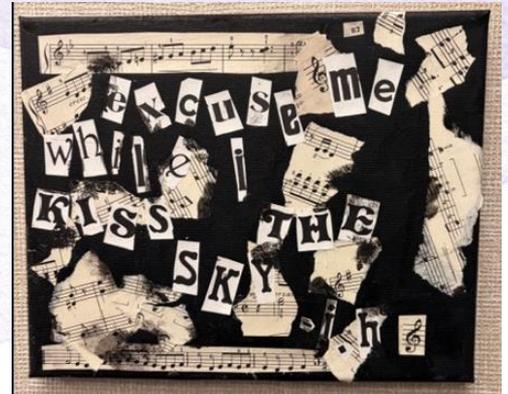
Artists in Schools

ELOP
(Expanded Learning Opportunities Program)

Integrating the Arts in Core Curriculum



A variety of artful expressions...



Community Partners

Nevada County Arts Council
Artists in Schools

Music in the Mountains
Carnegie Link Up Recorders
Program
Music on the Mind

InConcert Sierra:
Music Live
Third Grade Concert

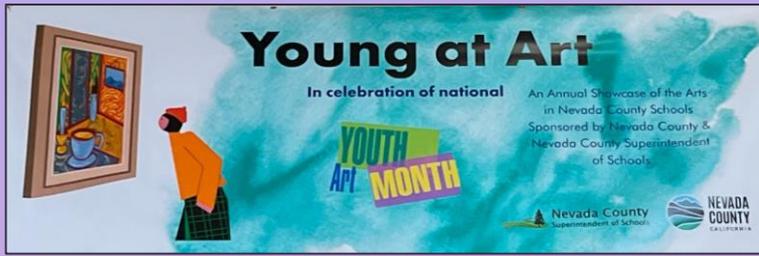
Nevada County Government
Young at Art Student Art Exhibit

Art Docent Program

Nevada County Library:
Nevada County Reads

Nevada County Media

The Center for the Arts:
Meeting Mozart



Ice Cream Social Kick-off Event:
 Nearly 150 cups of ice cream handed out to families!

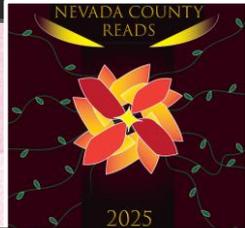
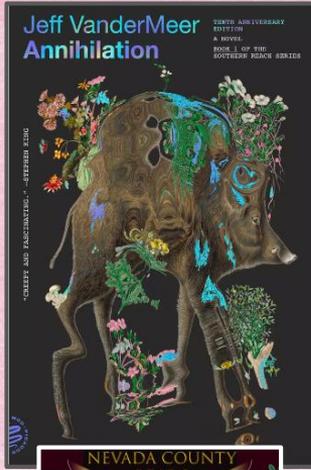


2026 Young at Art exhibit opens March 2nd closes May 29th

[Link to 2025 Young at Art Exhibit](#)

- 10 schools represented
- Nearly 1,000 student works displayed

Nevada County Reads Essay Contest ~ 2025



**2025 NCR Logo Contest
Winner: Jordan Davidson**
From Bear River HS:
Mike DeCicco's Digital Media
Arts Class

Grand Prize Winner:
Jude Slater (BR 25)
(Journal Entries)
\$500 cash prize

Second Place:
**Alexa Ines
Consecration**
(Forest Charter 25)
\$250 cash prize

Third Place:
Henry Robins (NU 28)
The Rapture
\$175 cash prize

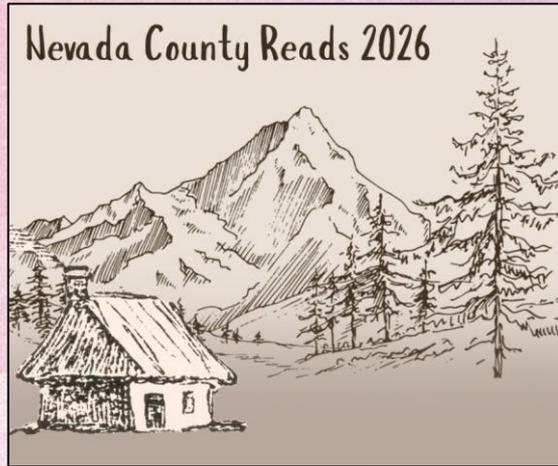
**Author Meet & Greet and
Awards at
Sierra College on April 26, 2025**
Top 10 Nevada County High
School Writing Contest
(poetry & essays)



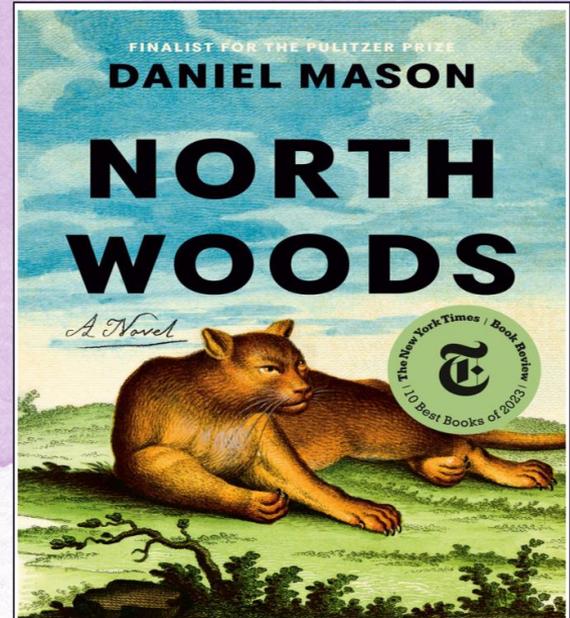
**Author, Jeff VanderMeer,
interviewed by Nick Wilczek at
Author Meet & Greet**

2026 Nevada County Reads Book Selection

Nevada County Reads Program & Events



2026 Logo Contest Winner:
Grace Layburn ~ NUHS student
Prize: \$200 Gift Card



Save the Date: Author Event with Daniel Mason

Saturday, April 11th | 6 pm

Free and open to the public

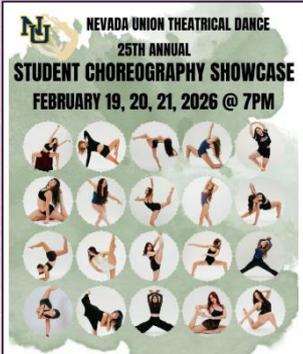
Sierra College, Nevada County Campus Multipurpose Center

50 Sierra College Drive | Grass Valley, CA 95945

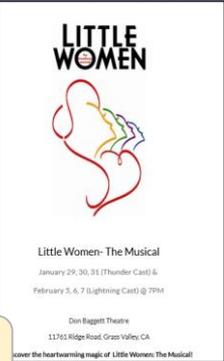
Nevada County School Productions



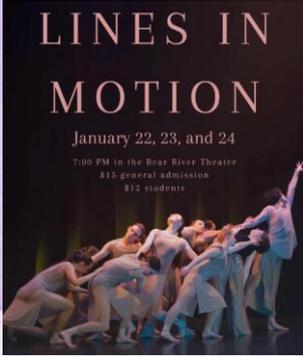
The Epic of Gilgamesh, written & directed by Hollie Mudd
Yuba River Charter production Spring 2025



Nevada Union HS Events



January 29-31 & February 5-7 - Little Women: The Musical - Theatre Production
 February 19, 20, 21 - Student Choreography Showcase - Dance Performance
 February 25, 26, 27 - Nevada Union Art Department Diorama & Collage Art Exhibit
 April 25 - Spring Swing - Band Event
 April 30, May 1 & 2 - Spring Dance Concert
 May 14 - Spring Band Concert
 May 21 - Spring Choir Concert
 May 23 & 30 - Spring Play Performance - Theatre Production
 June 5 - Dessert Concert - Choir Performance



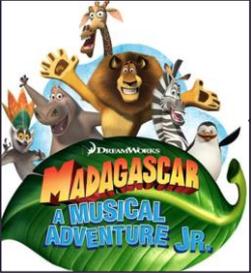
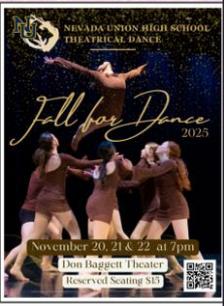
Bear River HS Events



Lyman Gilmore's Spring event



Clear Creek's Madagascar Junior production with the Lyric Rose Theatre Company





ART DOCENT PROGRAM™

Learning about art. Making art.

Through the Art Docent Program:

- Students see 350 famous works of art and produce a variety of art projects from TK to 6th grades.
- Students learn to perceive, analyze & respond to a variety of art in many cultures AND connect what they learn to other subject areas.
- 4 Nevada County Schools being served using ADP ~ 1 onsite art teacher, 1 ELOP teacher & 50 volunteer art docents!





Music in the Mountains



Serves 700+ students
TK-5th at 5 Elementary
Schools

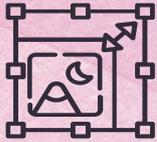


MUSIC FOR YOUNG MINDS

Music for Young Minds - a fun, interactive music program based on Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute World Music & Dance Program.

Taught by professional music educators at 4 Nevada County elementary schools and serves over 150 students

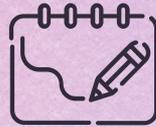
Artists in Schools



750-800 Students Served

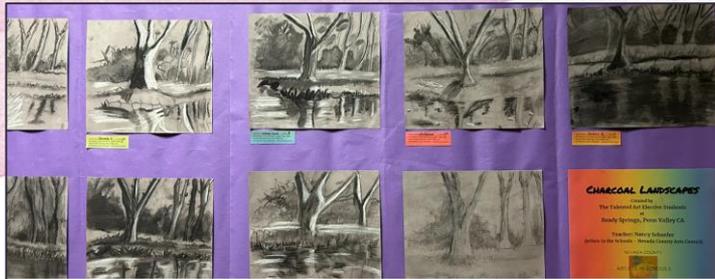
Scotten, Bell Hill, Grass Valley Charter - ELOP

Williams Ranch, & Ready Springs in classrooms



Professional Local Teaching Artists

Teach 45 classes (Kinder through 5th Grades)



20 to 25 Weeks of Visual Arts Lessons

There are 25 to 30 lessons per grade level available



Free Afterschool Art Classes for Families

Free Assemblies on Media Literacy

Saturday,
June 21, 10-11am
Nevada Theatre,
401 Broad St.,
Nevada City

**Want to make your own movies?
Looking for fun and creative
projects to do with your friends
this summer?**

Check out **Lights, Camera, Action!**
A Free Workshop for Students Grades K-8 Happening
During the 25th Annual Nevada City Film Festival

Learn the basics of filmmaking and digital storytelling
during this interactive program for Nevada County youth
that includes SEL elements, STEAM, arts integration,
media literacy and digital citizenship.

Presented by Arts Educator, Kimberly Ewing
Funded by Nevada City Film Festival

FREE
But... registration is required!
Scan the QR code or go to:
nevacityfilmfestival.com

NEVADA
CITY FILM
FESTIVAL

Cinema
in
Schools

What students & teachers are saying about the Lights, Camera, Action! Assemblies:

*3rd grade student "I loved everything about it and how to be smarter with my screen time. I really want to start a visual flipbook like an old fashioned film!"

*2nd grade teacher "I realized I could learn about my own media diet & the who, why, how & what of media consumption. The kids really loved the student-made videos you showed & said they will pay more attention to screen time."

*5th grade teacher "Being aware of who is making media for kids was a huge eye-opener. My 5th graders enjoyed the film set and skit too. Many of them are now curious about digital storytelling and sound mixing."





“Just for You” third-grade concert featuring Windsync on March 17, 2025



SAVE THE DATE!
For all Western Nevada County Third-Grade Students
INCONCERT SIERRA PRESENTS
Frisson
“A Concert Just for You!”
Monday, March 16, 2026



YOUR STUDENTS WILL DISCOVER THE EXCITEMENT OF LIVE PERFORMANCE WITH THE DYNAMIC NEW YORK-BASED CHAMBER ENSEMBLE—FRISSON—SPARKING CREATIVITY, CURIOSITY, AND INSPIRATION.

FREE CONCERT THAT INCLUDES DOCENT VISIT TO EACH CLASSROOM

CONCERT TIMES: 9:30am & 11:00am
CLASSROOM SIGNUPS BEGIN OCTOBER 2025
VENUE: Gross Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church
Free Bus Transportation available (distance dependent)

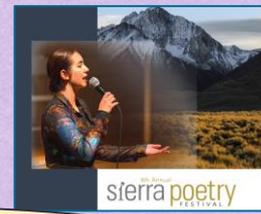
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Email: michae@inconcertsierra.org or Call: 550-273-5990



Classical Music to Rock Your World

Poetry Out Loud ~ 2026

Winner: Aurora Derrick of Truckee HS**



The 10th annual **Sierra Poetry Festival**, which occurs April 18th, invited students to recite their poems.

2026 Poetry Out Loud Champions Announced by Nevada County Arts Council



Winning recitation:

Militants to Certain other Women (by Katherine Rolston Fisher) and *Fruit of the Flower* (by Countee Cullen)

Clover Rashby, of **Nevada Union High School**, is runner up for her recitation of *The Protected Sex* by Alice Duer Miller and *Why We Oppose Pockets for Women* by Alice Duer Miller.

Julianne Marsh, of **SAEL**, received third prize for her recitation of *Captain! My Captain!* by Walt Whitman and *Thoughts in Jail* by Katharine Rolston Fisher.

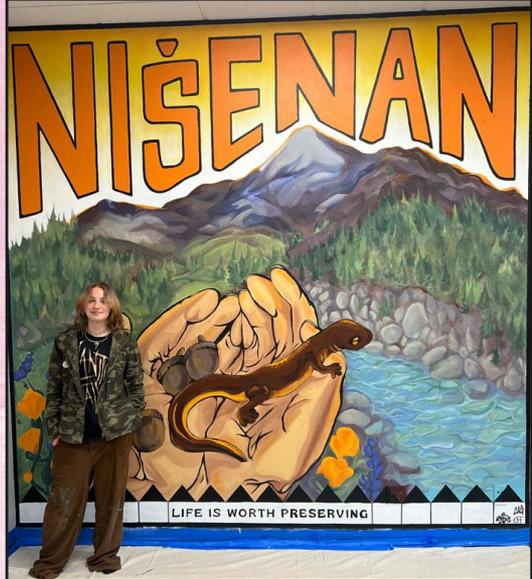
Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

**This is the first year students from Truckee have been able to participate in Poetry Out Loud.

NJUHSD Student Art Competition

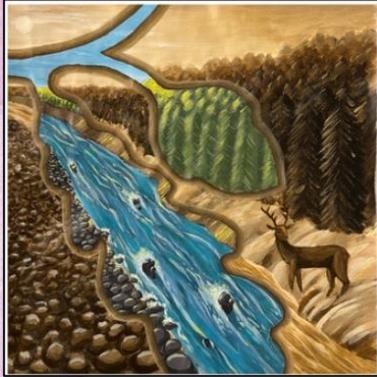
70
Entries

1st Place
Casio Lara (NU '26)



**Chosen for the NJUHSD
board room**

2nd Place
Edda Frykdhal (NU '26)



3rd Place
Jude Slater (BR '25)



Entries were reviewed by a panel involved tribal leaders, CHIRP board members, local artists and gallery owners, and a student who was doing a senior project on Nisenan historical and culture.

PARTNERS
Family Resource

Nevada County
Superintendent of Schools

Nevada County
You're invited to the 4th annual
Latino Family Festival

Condon Park, Grass Valley, CA

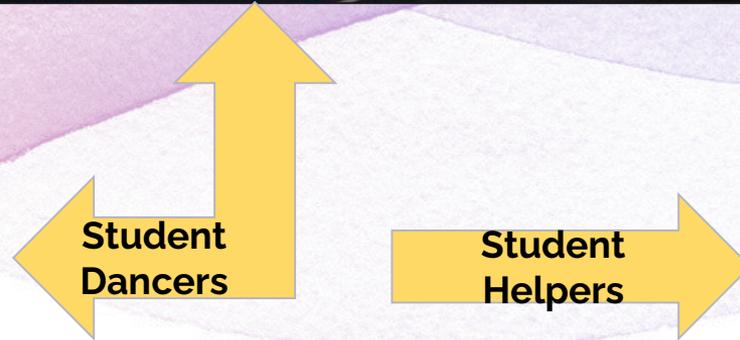
Thursday, September 18, 2025
6:00-8:00PM

**-BIENVENIDOS TODOS-
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

LOCAL RESOURCES

- MUSIC
- FOOD
- GAMES
- RAFFLE
- DANCING

Latino Family Festival



Photography by Jason Scallin



EXPLORE, CONNECT, INNOVATE!

**SUBMISSIONS DUE
APRIL 25TH**

UNLEASH YOUR IMAGINATION AND WIN COOL PRIZES!

Collage, Performing Arts, Painting, Mixed Media, Digital Media Video, Digital Media Art, Drawing, Photography

INTERESTED IN DIGITAL MEDIA?

- GO TO [NEVADA COUNTY MEDIA](#), WHO IS OFFERING **FREE CLASSES** ON HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA.
- SUBMIT YOUR DIGITAL MEDIA CREATION TO THE [CA STUDENT MEDIA FESTIVAL](#) BY APRIL 11TH & TO THE [STEAM ARTS EXPO](#) BY APRIL 1ST.

Learn more at nevcoexpo.org

**REGISTER FOR STEAM ARTS
BY APRIL 25TH, 2025.
REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT
NEVCOEXPO.ZFAIRS.COM/**



Open to ALL students in Nevada County!



31 Participating Students from 4 different Schools

31 Art Projects Submitted across all of the categories

17 Registered teachers

8 Community Judges

Link to [all STEAM Arts Submissions](#)

STEAM Arts Project Categories Descriptions Linked Here	
Collage	Digital Media Video
Drawing	Digital Media Art (not video)
Mixed Media	Painting
Performing Arts	Photography



Runs April 24th-May 2, 2026

2025 STEAM Arts Showcase & Competition Winners:

Izzy Powell (7th Grade)
Magnolia Middle School
What is Dance
First Place Senior Division



[Link to the project](#)

Nevaeh Smith (2nd Grade)
Williams Ranch Elementary
Narwhal Ocean
First Place Elementary Division



[Link to the project](#)

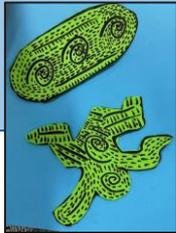
Student Testimonials

Elementary School Students

"Art is so fun! I am happy every time we get to do art."



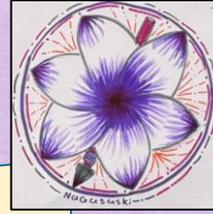
"Art let's me create anything I want."



Middle School Students

"It is really expressive. You can make anything that you need to. You can make your art anything you want it to be, but you can't be anything you want to be in this world. That is what I like about art."

"In a world that tries to define everything, art lives outside those bounds. Art can be anything the creator wants it to be, even if the creator is defined by society."



High School Students

"From my own perspective, I see myself in each timeline of my life and always going through negative feelings; then through Art, my negativity starts to become lighter, shining light in my life."

"Art to me can be a frustrating process. Most of my Art is done to help me further my vision of the worlds I make in my writing. I continue to push myself in the creative field of Art because I do want to be able to make my characters come to life on my own."

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Thanks you for your partnership in support
of the ARTS!

