



Artspiration Newsletter

October 2025 | Issue 3



Artspiration News

Welcome to October. Fall is definitely in the air as the days grow shorter and cooler. This month, we celebrate the history of Polish Americans, Italian Americans, and Filipino Americans in the United States. We celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and ADHD Awareness Month, alongside major holidays such as Diwali, Yom Kippur, and Halloween. October is also the month for the World Series and the Rugby World Cup Finals. For Artspiration, look for guidelines for the 2026 Young Artist Showcase. The application opens on October 15 for submissions.



2026 Young Artist Showcase

Note: Applications for submissions open on Wednesday, October 15!

**Theme - My Superpower:
The Power to Imagine. The Passion to Create.**

Everyone has a superpower—something that makes them unique, resilient, and extraordinary. It might be the rhythm in your music, the emotion in your performance, the movement in your dance, the vision in your art, or the message in your media. “My Superpower” invites artists across all disciplines to explore and express the inner

forces that define them. Whether it's the courage to speak out, the power of imagination, or the strength to overcome, this theme celebrates the diverse ways we channel our creativity into something powerful.

- Musicians might compose or perform pieces that reflect personal triumph or emotional depth.
- Dancers can embody strength, transformation, or identity through movement.
- Theatre artists can tell stories of hidden powers, resilience, or self-discovery.
- Visual artists can illustrate symbolic or literal interpretations of power and uniqueness.
- Media artists can craft digital narratives, animations, or films that bring their superpowers to life.

This is your moment to shine and turn your superpower into your art.

Key Dates

2025-26 YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE SELECTION PROCESS:

- October 15, 2025 – April 1, 2026 | Electronic submissions of PK-12th-grade student artwork and media
- Week of April 13, 2026 | People's Choice Awards Adjudication
- May 4, 2026 | Online Student Art Gallery at www.sccoe.org/arts/yas
- May 14, 2026 | Young Artists Virtual Showcase Celebration for all grades: 4:00 p.m.

****For a 1:1 consultation for your project, please click on the button below.**

Questions? Schedule a 1:1 Consultation

Go To the Young Artist Showcase Page

2026 Viva el Mariachi Showcase

Save the date and apply!

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is excited to present the 2026 *Viva el Mariachi!* Showcase on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, beginning at 6:00 PM. If you are leading a youth mariachi or ballet folklórico group and want to apply to perform, please click the button.

Apply to Perform at the Showcase

Questions? Schedule a 1:1 with Dr. Fojas



Artspiration Leadership Council 2025-26

We are engaging in a strategic planning process this fall and invite you to participate in shaping the direction of Artspiration for the next two years!

Register by clicking on the button below. The fall sessions will be dedicated to a two-year

work plan, with subsequent sessions focused on implementing Proposition 28 - Arts and Music in Schools, and supporting a sustainable and transformative arts education in our schools.

- October 30, 2025; 1-5 (in person)
- November 6, 2025, 4-6 online
- January 21, 2026, 4-5 online
- February 17, 2026; 4-5 online
- April 21, 2026, 4-5 online

Register for the Artspiration Leadership Council [Here!](#)

SCCOE Corner

Santa Clara County Mathematics Festival

Saturday
October 25, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





2025-26 Santa Clara County Mathematics Festival

Santa Clara County Office of Education invites you to the third annual county-wide Mathematics Festival on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., taking place at the Ridder Park Office, 1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose,

CA 95131. Students in grades TK-8 can discover the fun and joy in mathematics by playing games and solving puzzles with family and friends!

We are also seeking volunteers to assist with the festival. Parents, educators, high school students, and members of the community are all welcome! Community service hours are available upon request.



Music & Movement in Early Learning (Pre-K to Grade 2)

Young children naturally engage in performing arts activities and artful expressions throughout their day! Experimenting with sounds and movements doesn't require any special materials. Teachers in preschool through Grade 2 often get children's attention or signal a transition with a rhythm pattern, chimes, or a rainstick.

Pre-K and TK classrooms typically have a music center where students explore simple instruments, such as jingle bells, egg shakers, maracas, sticks, and drums. Some classrooms have a "maker" station where students can create rubber band guitars on plastic food trays and simple drums with oatmeal cartons. PBS Kids offers a free professional learning video series on facilitating an integrated STEAM unit on sound for young children: [PBS Kids: Sound](#).

The California Department of Education has just released revised [Preschool/TK Learning Foundations for Visual and Performing Arts](#). This document articulates how educators can engage young children in visual arts, music, drama, and dance. The Kennedy Center highlights the connections between [music and math](#). [Research](#) has shown that "preschool mathematics ability predicts mathematics achievement through age 15." More support for music educators working with young children can be found in the [Children's Music Network](#).

If you or your local education agency needs support with developmentally age appropriate music and movement experiences, please contact the Learning & Instruction team at Santa

Partner Corner

2025–26 Expanding Access to Arts Education Community of Practice

The passage of the Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (Prop 28) has brought increased attention to the need for the strategic use of this and other funding streams to ensure equitable access to a sequential, standards-based arts education for all students at all grade levels.



Community of Practice participants will build their capacity for leadership in arts education by:

- Exploring opportunities for expanding access to all students, including emerging multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and students in under-resourced communities.
- Deepening understanding of various models for funding arts education.
- Sharing ideas and promising practices around arts and arts integration.
- Hearing from a variety of arts education leaders and engaging in conversations around problems of practice.

Audience: Participation is open to all county and district arts education leaders, PK-12 arts teachers, teaching artists, and community arts organizations. No cost, but advanced registration is required.

Dates: October 17 and December 5, 2025; February 6, March 6, and April 3, 2026

Time: 10:00-11:30 AM

[Register Here!](#)



□ Introducing TrExcel – The Ultimate Scholarship Team Competition!

TrExcel empowers underrepresented students through STEAM, arts, and fitness, helping them develop leadership, innovation, and teamwork skills. Participants collaborate on creative projects, guided by trained mentors, and compete for exciting monetary prizes — including a \$9,000 grand prize for the top team! Join us in shaping future leaders and inspiring excellence! Register by clicking on the button below.

[Register Here.](#)

Arts Education Research

By Sunil Iyengar, February 25, 2025

A new report from the National Endowment for the Arts reaffirms what

Educating Ourselves About Childhood Arts Experiences



Technical Assistance and Office Hours

As your County Arts Coordinator, I am available for consultation on all aspects of arts education and can provide professional learning for educators, arts organizations, and community organizations. If you would like to connect, send me an email. In my response email, use the hyperlink 'Book time with Sofia Fojas' to set up a meeting, found in my signature.

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