



**Fresno County
Superintendent of Schools**
Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copier, Superintendent



Curriculum
& Instruction

STUDENT EVENTS CATALOGUE

2026-27





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mock Trial.	3
Fresno County History Day.	3
Young Authors' Faire	4
STEM for Girls.	4
Spell-Off	5
MLK Educational Contests.	5
Unity Fresno Festival & Concert (UFFC)	6
Fresno County Youth Poet Laureate.	6
Secondary Science Olympiad	7
Elementary Science Olympiad.	7
MATHCounts	8
Science Fair	8
One Voice: The Spirit of 9/12	9
heARTbeat Student Photography Exhibition	9
Picture the Valley Film Festival.	10
Summer Arts @ Reedley College	10
Fresno County Summer Arts Academy (FCSAA).	11



MOCK TRIAL

Mock Trial is designed to demystify the workings of our legal system for young people and to help them develop analytical thinking and communication skills. Students are given a court case that includes roles requiring a range of abilities. Teams of high school students present the case in actual courtrooms within the Fresno County Superior Court. Presiding judges and attorneys evaluate each team's performance. All Fresno County high schools are invited to participate in the competition.

Website

<https://mocktrial.fcoe.org/>

Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

Registration

Start: August 1, 2026

Entry Agreements Due: October 6, 2026

Award Ceremony

February 22, 2027



FRESNO COUNTY HISTORY DAY

History Day engages students in researching topics connected to an annual theme and creating original projects that demonstrate their understanding of history. Students may choose from a variety of project categories, including papers, podcasts, documentaries, performances, websites, and exhibits, allowing them to showcase their learning in ways that match their strengths and interests. Throughout the process, students analyze primary and secondary sources, evaluate historical significance, and develop evidence-based interpretations. They then create projects that communicate their learning and may share their work through local, state, and national History Day competitions.

Website

<https://historyday.fcoe.org/>

Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

Registration

August 1, 2026 – February 5, 2027

Award Ceremony

March 13, 2027





YOUNG AUTHORS' FAIRE

The Young Authors' Faire is open to all K–12 students in Fresno County. The event aims to celebrate student work and showcase original books by local young authors/illustrators. All books or poems/narratives submitted will be on display at the Fresno County Young Authors' Faire and will receive a gold embossed seal to recognize achievement and participation. Attendees are invited to browse student work and enjoy the literacy booths.

Website

<https://yaf.fcoe.org/>

Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

Registration

October 1, 2026 – February 26, 2027

Award Ceremony

May 6, 2027



STEM FOR GIRLS

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools is pleased to offer this engaging conference designed to inspire students through a motivating keynote speaker, interactive learning opportunities, and exciting breakout sessions led by local women working in STEM business, industry, and education. Participants will have the opportunity to hear real-world stories, explore STEM career pathways, and connect classroom learning to future opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through hands-on sessions and meaningful conversations, students will gain insight into the skills, experiences, and mindsets that support success in STEM fields. This conference highlights the importance of representation, access, and encouragement in helping students envision themselves as future STEM leaders.

Website

<https://stem.fcoe.org/stemforgirls>

Department

STEM

Registration

August 10, 2026 – October 3, 2026

Event Date

October 17, 2026





SPELL-OFF

The Fresno County Spell-Off is a qualifier for the overall Champion Speller to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The top two elementary and top two junior high spellers from Fresno County advance to the state spelling competition in Northern California. In addition, the single overall Fresno County Champion Speller, grades 4–8, will also represent Fresno County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland.

Website

<https://spelloff.fcoe.org/>

Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

Registration

August 19, 2026 – September 25, 2026

Award Ceremony

February 25, 2027



MLK EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Contests invite students from Fresno County to participate by creating art, delivering speeches, or composing essays that honor the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With the support of a teacher or advisor from their campus, students may choose to participate in any contest category that best showcases their unique talents and skills. The event culminates each year in an exhibition of top entries and an awards ceremony celebrating students and their hard work. Contest categories and grade levels: Art (K–12), Speech (4–12), and Essay (4–12).

Website

<https://mlk.fcoe.org/>

Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

Theme Released

September 1, 2026

Entries Due

November 19, 2026

Award Ceremony

January 14, 2027





UNITY FRESNO FESTIVAL & CONCERT (UFFC)

For middle school and high school choirs. The Unity Fresno Festival & Concert (UFFC) is an intergenerational celebration of Black history and excellence in and through choral music to kickoff Black History Month in Fresno County. The UFFC brings together people of all ages, races, genders, and abilities from across Fresno County through the joy of music. The UFFC is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Fresno Community Chorus, Inc., the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, and Fresno Unified School District.

Website

<https://arts.fcoe.org/unity-fresno-choral-festival-concert>

Department

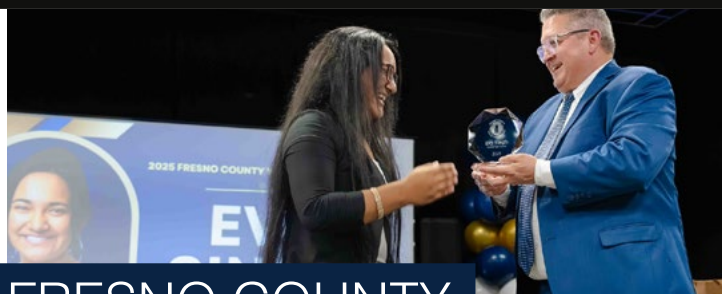
Arts Education

Registration

October 1, 2026 – November 6, 2026

Concert

February 13, 2027



FRESNO COUNTY YOUTH POET LAUREATE

The Fresno County Youth Poet Laureate Program is conducted in partnership with FCSS and Urban Word, the producer of the National Youth Poet Laureate Program and Movement. This program celebrates youth voices that are committed to artistic excellence, civic engagement and social impact. Supported by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the Academy of American Poets, the Poetry Society of America and numerous other local and national literary organizations, our goal is to elevate the role that youth poets play in enriching our cultural lives and impacting change in our communities.

Website

<https://arts.fcoe.org/youth-poet-laureate-contest>

Department

Arts Education

Registration

August 17 2026 – October 4, 2026

Award Ceremony

November 18, 2026





SECONDARY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Secondary Science Olympiad is designed for middle and high school students. Competitions are structured like academic track meets, with teams participating in a series of STEM-focused events across disciplines such as earth science, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering, and technology. Successful teams may qualify to advance to the state-level competition, providing students with an opportunity to extend their learning, teamwork, and problem-solving beyond the local level.

Website

<https://stem.fcoe.org/scienceolympiad>

Department

STEM

Registration

October 1, 2026 – February 26, 2027

Award Ceremony

March 6, 2027



ELEMENTARY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Elementary Science Olympiad is designed for students in grades 3–6. This event introduces students to STEM through team-based academic competitions that include hands-on challenges and content-based events in areas such as earth science, anatomy, physics, geology, engineering, and technology. By combining events from multiple disciplines, the Science Olympiad encourages a wide range of students to get involved, collaborate with peers, and build early interest in STEM.

Website

<https://stem.fcoe.org/scienceolympiad>

Department

STEM

Registration

October 1, 2026 – April 9, 2027

Award Ceremony

May 1, 2027





MATHCOUNTS

This national competition is a great way to get math students in grades 6–8 to a place where they can show their speed at problem solving. This event includes individual, team, and a Jeopardy Style competition. Held at Fresno State, students are exposed to both mathematical problems and the university campus. Math Counts competition is February at Fresno State University.

Website

<https://stem.fcoe.org/mathcounts>

Department
STEM

Registration

October 1, 2026 – January 19, 2027

Award Ceremony

February 4, 2027



SCIENCE FAIR

The Fresno County Science Fair is an annual competition for students in grades 6–12. The fair provides an opportunity for discourse among like-minded, high-achieving middle and high school students across the Central Valley. The fair fosters an interest in and an excitement about science, mathematics and engineering while offering a rewarding competitive setting in which students can showcase their research projects and set the stage for the rest of their academic careers. This event takes place the second or third week of March.

Website

<https://stem.fcoe.org/sciencefair>

Department
STEM

Registration

October 1, 2026 – March 1, 2027

Award Ceremony

March 17, 2027





ONE VOICE: THE SPIRIT OF 9/12

This art and poetry competition is open to students in 7–12 grade and aims to honor our first responders and the lives lost on September 11, 2001, while also celebrating the Spirit of September 12 – a time when Americans came together in unity, compassion, and resilience. Both grand prize winning students (one in art and one in poetry) will receive a new laptop. The teachers of the two grand prize winners will each receive a \$500 Amazon gift card in recognition of their support and mentorship.

Website

<https://onevoice.fcoe.org/>

Department

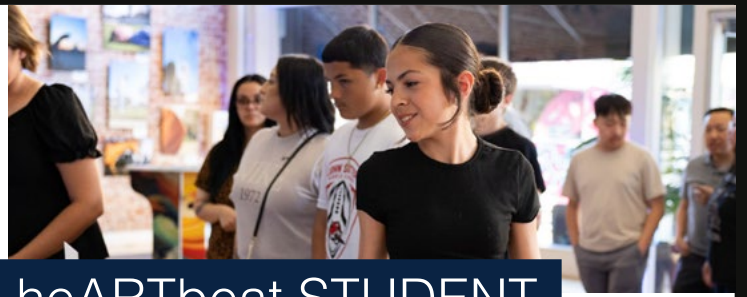
ERWC

Registration

November 1, 2026 – May 27, 2027

Award Ceremony

September 13, 2027



heARTbeat STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Open to grades 3–12, heARTbeat uses the power of images to help convey the beauty of our community. Students take photos in alignment with the theme for the year and the winning photos will be printed and displayed in the K-Jewel Art Gallery at One Putt Broadcasting in downtown Fresno. Winning students will be invited to a special awards ceremony where their friends and family can enjoy their work at the gallery opening.

Website

<https://arts.fcoe.org/heartbeat-student-art-exhibition>

Department

Arts Education

Registration

January 6, 2027 – February 5, 2027

Award Ceremony

March 18, 2027





PICTURE THE VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

Open to grades 6-12, Picture the Valley is a film festival for the students of Fresno County that provides students an avenue to share their unique perspective on life in the Central Valley through multiple film categories.

Website

<https://picturethevalley.org/>

Department

Arts Education

Registration

March 1, 2027 – April 2, 2027

Film Showcase

May 20, 2027



SUMMER ARTS @ REEDLEY COLLEGE

Open to grades 2–8, Summer Arts @ Reedley College is a FREE summer arts opportunity for elementary and middle school students! The elementary music and art camp are available to students currently in grades 2-5 and the junior high band camp is available to students currently in grades 6-8 that have played their instrument in their school band for at least one year.

Website

<https://arts.fcoe.org/summer-arts-reedley-college>

Department

Arts Education

Registration

April 14, 2027 – May 31, 2027

Artists' Showcase

June 11, 2027





FRESNO COUNTY SUMMER ARTS ACADEMY (FCSAA)

Open to students currently in grades 8-12, the Fresno County Summer Arts Academy (FCSAA) is a free 2-week summer arts program featuring courses in acting, concert band, dance, mariachi, musical theatre, visual art, and more.

Website

<https://arts.fcoe.org/fresno-county-summer-arts-academy>

Department

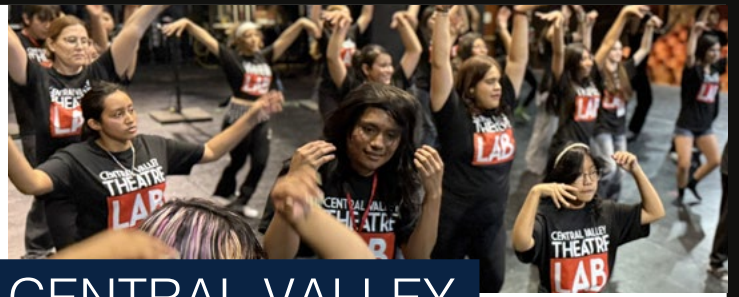
Arts Education

Registration

April 14, 2027 – May 31, 2027

Artists' Showcase

June 27, 2027



CENTRAL VALLEY THEATRE LAB

Open to grades 2–8, Summer Arts @ Reedley College is a FREE summer arts opportunity for elementary and middle school students! The elementary music and art camp are available to students currently in grades 2-5 and the junior high band camp is available to students currently in grades 6-8 that have played their instrument in their school band for at least one year.

Website

<https://arts.fcoe.org/central-valley-theatre-lab>

Department

Arts Education

Registration

August 3, 2026 – October 9, 2026

Conference

October 23-24, 2026

