



Fresno County  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher, Superintendent



Curriculum  
& Instruction  
**STUDENT  
EVENTS  
CATALOGUE**  
2025-26



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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



## 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, 2025

Entry Agreements Due: October 7, 2025

### Award Ceremony

February 23, 2026



## FRESNO COUNTY HISTORY DAY

History Day is an excellent opportunity to incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL), as students have multiple options for conducting research and presenting their arguments. They may choose from seven different categories: historical papers, podcasts, documentaries, performances, websites, exhibits, or posters (poster category is available for elementary grades only). Students analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about the significance of their topics in history, and create final projects to showcase their work. These projects can serve as rich, project-based learning experiences at the school site and/or be entered into a series of competitions ranging from local to national levels, where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. All Fresno County schools serving students in grades 4–12 are encouraged to participate.

### Website

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

### Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

### Registration

August 1, 2025 – February 6, 2026

### Award Ceremony

March 14, 2026





## STEM FOR GIRLS

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools is pleased to offer this conference powered by Chevron. Experience a motivating keynote speaker and exciting break-out sessions by local women in STEM business and education.

**Website**

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

**Department**

STEM

**Registration**

August 5, 2025 – October 3, 2025

**Event Date**

October 18, 2025



## FRESNO COUNTY YOUTH POET LAUREATE

The Fresno County Youth Poet Laureate Program is conducted in partnership with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and Urban Word, the producer of the National Youth Poet Laureate Program and Movement. This program celebrates youth voices who 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 18, 2025 – October 1, 2025

**Award Ceremony**

November 19, 2025







## 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, 2025 – September 26, 2025

### Award Ceremony

February 26, 2026



## MLK EDUCATIONAL CONTEST

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Contest invites 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 2, 2025

### Entries Due

November 20, 2025

### Award Ceremony

January 15, 2026





## UNITY FRESNO FESTIVAL & CONCERT (UFFC)

For elementary, 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 choristers 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, 2025 – November 7, 2025

### Concert

February 14, 2026



## 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, 2025 – February 27, 2026

### Award Ceremony

May 6, 2026





## SECONDARY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events. Events include information in earth science, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved.

### Website

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

### Department

STEM

### Registration

October 1, 2025 – February 27, 2026

### Award Ceremony

March 7, 2026



## ELEMENTARY SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events. Events include information in earth science, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved.

### Website

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

### Department

STEM

### Registration

October 1, 2025 – April 20, 2026

### Award Ceremony

May 2, 2026





## MATHCOUNTS

This national competition is a great way to get your top 6th-8th grade math students into 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.

### Website

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

### Department

STEM

### Registration

October 1, 2025 – January 30, 2026

### Award Ceremony

February 5, 2026



## 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.

### Website

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

### Department

STEM

### Registration

October 1, 2025 – March 1, 2026

### Award Ceremony

March 19, 2026







## FTC ROBOTICS COMPETITION

The Fresno FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) Qualifier is a dynamic robotics competition where middle and high school teams from across Northern California showcase their engineering and programming skills. As part of the FTC season themed “Into the Deep,” teams design, build, and program robots to tackle ocean-inspired challenges. This event not only fosters STEM learning, but also promotes teamwork, innovation, and community engagement. Top-performing teams at the Fresno Qualifier earn the opportunity to advance to regional championships.

### Website

<https://stem.fcoe.org/first-tech-challenge-qualifier>

### Department

STEM

### Registration

December 1, 2025 – March 14, 2026

### Award Ceremony

March 27-28, 2026



## ONE VOICE: THE SPIRIT OF 9/12

In partnership with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and the California 9/11 Memorial Board, this countywide Art, Poetry, and Logo Competition is for students in grades 7–12. This meaningful competition aims to honor first responders and the lives lost on September 11, 2001, while also celebrating the Spirit of 9/12—a time when Americans came together in unity, compassion, and resilience. Two Grand-Prize Student Winners (one in Art and one in Poetry) will each 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

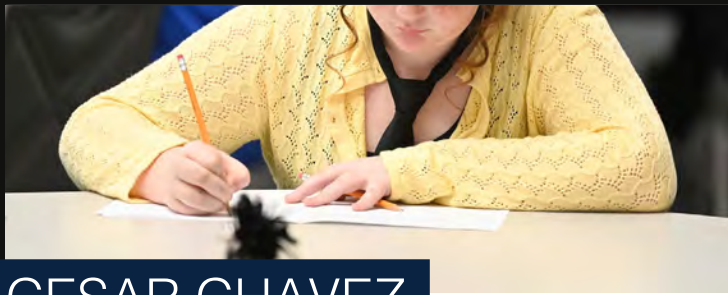
### Registration

November 1, 2025 – May 27, 2026

### Award Ceremony

TBD by CA 9/11 Board





## CESAR CHAVEZ ESSAY CONTEST

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools hosts an annual Cesar Chavez Essay Contest. Beginning in January, students compose essays to honor the life and vision of Cesar Chavez. The event culminates around the time of Cesar Chavez Day when the top student entries will be honored for their hard work. The essay contest is open to all Fresno County students in grades 7-12.

### Website

<https://cesarchavez.fcoe.org>

### Department

ELA/ELD/H-SS

### Theme Released

December 5, 2025

### Submissions Due

February 13, 2026

### Student Recognition

During March Board Meeting



## 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, 2026 – February 6, 2026

### Award Ceremony

March 20, 2026





## PICTURE THE VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

Open to grades 6-12, Picture the Valley is a film festival for Fresno County students that provides them 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, 2026 – April 3, 2026

### Film Showcase

May 21, 2026



## SUMMER ARTS @ REEDLEY COLLEGE

Open to grades 2-8, Summer Arts @ Reedley College is a 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 who 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 15, 2026 – June 1, 2026

### Artists' Showcase

June 12, 2026





## FRESNO COUNTY SUMMER ARTS ACADEMY (FCSAA)

Open to grades 8-12, the Fresno County Summer Arts Academy (FCSAA) is a two-week summer arts program for current 8-12 grade students featuring courses in acting, concert band, dance, Mariachi, musical theater, visual art, and more.

### Website

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

### Department

Arts Education

### Registration

April 15, 2026 – June 1, 2026

### Artists' Showcase

June 27, 2026

