

news galleryweek

January 19, 2022

Theatre Company extends workshops throughout the county



This spring, the Theatre Company is increasing its number of workshops and spreading them throughout the county. In lieu of its annual spring production, the group is focusing on providing short performance training opportunities.

“We will be offering a variety of our favorite workshops with concentrations on audition preparation, dance technique, vocal technique, and vocal performance preparation,” said Bethany Rader, Theatre Company director. Rader reports that several workshops are being planned for select Saturdays in March and April in Exeter.

One of the Exeter workshops is a mock audition training. Students will have the chance to sing, dance, and present a monologue for an audition panel and then receive their feedback. “This is a unique opportunity young performers rarely experience,” Rader said. “The workshop will help students grow, and understand their strengths and weaknesses as they prepare for future auditions.”

A second Exeter workshop will focus on best audition practices. Students will learn that from the moment they walk into an audition space, everything matters. Theatre Company staff will work with participants in choosing songs, dance, and monologues to fit any situation, and how to study quickly for “cold reads.”

Participants in other upcoming vocal workshops will receive technique instruction, audition tips, and performance preparation coaching for classic and current Broadway singing styles.

Future dance workshops will focus on the fundamentals of jazz and/or tap techniques while building strength and increased flexibility. Students in the dance workshops will also gain performance skills and learn storytelling through movement.

Students in acting workshops will learn how to find and explore characters as they prepare a monologue for auditions and performances. They will also practice giving and receiving feedback on their work to experience theatrical appreciation and critique.

Later this spring in Visalia, the program will hold a two-week staged reading workshop. In this workshop, which is a scaled-down version of a full production, actors will sit on stools in costume and read through the comedy *The Curious Savage* by John Patrick. The workshop teaches students to fully perform their character. "This is an exciting new project, different from the musicals we have done in the past," Rader said. "We are eager to offer this to students this spring."

"This new direction for the Theatre Company has the potential to spark a passion for performing in more young people across the county," said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. "I encourage district superintendents who want to bring our Theatre Company staff to their area to reach out to us." Rader reports that the Theatre Company is looking for partnerships and workshop space in the Dinuba, Porterville/Strathmore, and Tulare areas.

For more information about the Theatre Company's spring workshops, contact Bethany Rader at bethany.rader@tcoe.org.

School Health Programs offers Safe Health Practices Workshop February 25



Tulare County school site secretaries, health clerks, registrars, and LVNs are invited to attend School Health Programs' full-day Safe Health Practices Workshop on Friday, February 25.

TCOE's credentialed school nurse team and social workers from the Mental Wellness Triage Program, along with representatives from Anthem Blue Cross, Family Healthcare Network, and Kaweah Health will share information and resources on safe health practices in school settings. Presentations featured in the workshop include: mental wellness services, Anthem Medical Services, Stop the Bleed training, Family Healthcare Network's Mobile Health Program, Foster Youth Services, TCOE Nutrition, Education, and Obesity Prevention Program, and the TCOE SCICON Program.

The workshop will be held in the Sequoia Room of TCOE's Doe Avenue complex beginning with registration at 8:00 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$55.00 per person and includes lunch and all presentation materials. Registration is available at tulare.k12oms.org/174-214495 and must be completed by Friday, February 18.

For additional information, please contact School Health Programs at (559) 651-0130, extension 3730.

Special Services administrators present at state conference



Last week, Special Services administrators Tammy McKean, Joe Martinez, Jennifer Reimer, and Rachel Weaver presented at the annual Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Every Child Counts Symposium. The TCOE administrators presented a session entitled *Implementing the File Review Process as a Means of Improving Compliance* – a session which highlighted a system developed and implemented by the team to support schools and ensure student IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) are well-written and compliant.

The presentation focused on the challenges of addressing compliance-related details in student IEPs. The team presented the process they developed in visiting schools or districts to review special education files. Using a compliance checklist, the team reviews records and then conferences with staff afterwards to provide specific feedback related to the strengths and areas needing attention.

“This process has been anecdotally shown to improve the quality of IEPs and help case managers become more confident in their writing skills,” McKean shared. “The process also works to review 504 plans.”

For more information on Special Services’ file review process, contact Tammy McKean, assistant superintendent, at tammym@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ (l-r) Special Services administrators Rachel Weaver, Tammy McKean, Jennifer Reimer and Joe Martinez present at the annual ACSA Every Child Counts Symposium.

Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
- [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
- [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)

Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Bethany Rader, McKenna Friend-Hoffman, Margarita Quintana, and Tammy McKean.

To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGallery, or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.