

news galleryweek

August 17, 2022

Arts-focused professional learning offered this fall



Several arts-focused professional learning trainings will be offered this fall to support educators in implementing the arts in their classrooms.

A virtual information session for the new QUAIL Project is being held **Tuesday, August 30** from 4:00 until 5:00 p.m. The QUAIL Project is the countywide, federally-funded arts education program aimed at improving high-quality, standards-based arts instruction in Tulare County schools. It is open to all PK-12 educators and school arts specialists.

Participants in QUAIL will develop and freely share arts resources through a rich professional learning series. In addition to school-year professional learning

opportunities, the program will also offer an intensive summer institute training and reactivate the county's artists in schools program.

QUAIL is free to all Tulare County schools and districts. To register for the August 30 information session, visit <http://tulare.k12oms.org/147-223761>.

The second learning opportunity is entitled ARTS + SEL and it explores the relationship between the arts and students' academic, social, and emotional learning. Combining California's new Arts Standards and the CASEL (The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) Core Competencies, ARTS + SEL is designed to help educators discover how to utilize the visual and performing arts as a tool for promoting student health and wellness, and for improving school climate and culture.

The full-day training will highlight a wide range of hands-on activities and research-based strategies to engage learners of all ages and all abilities. Participants will receive resources they can use immediately to integrate the arts into their classrooms to impact student creativity, self-awareness, self-expression, decision making, and positive relationships. To register for ARTS + SEL, scheduled in person for **October 19**, visit <http://tulare.k12oms.org/147-223779>.

The Tulare County Arts Network – or TuCAN – is also reconvening virtually for the 2022-23 school year. TuCAN is a professional learning community for educators created to promote the arts and arts education throughout Tulare County. TuCAN will meet monthly via Zoom from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. beginning **September 22**. Each month, the group will discuss the latest arts advocacy efforts, resources from state and local partners, and best practices, as well as network with one another. To participate in TuCAN, complete the interest form at <https://bit.ly/QUAIL2022-23>.

For more information, contact Arts Staff Development & Curriculum Specialist Kate Stover at kate.stover@tcoe.org or (559) 741-0809.

Step Up Youth Challenge is back for new school year



Since the 2012-13 school year, the Step Up Youth Challenge has been a vehicle for students to create impactful projects at their schools and in their communities. Often working alongside community agencies, dozens of middle and high school teams have participated over the years to develop projects that address a wide range of issues – from hunger, bullying, and depression to literacy, fitness, and community beautification.

Through the yearlong process of developing their projects, students learn how to identify community needs, develop a project plan, and implement it in partnership with others. Along the way, they gain real insight into the process of community change.

Participating middle and high schools will compete for grants totaling \$13,000. Step Up kicks off in September with a **mandatory Advisor Training on September 7** beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Tulare County Office Education in Visalia. Advisors are encouraged to register by September 7 to attend the training by visiting <https://tulare.k12oms.org/1530-223969>. Details on the Youth Summit, the project development and submission process, and the Red Carpet Awards ceremony will be shared at the Advisor Training.

On September 28 and 29, advisors and their student team members will come together for a full-day Youth Summit designed to motivate and inspire them on their journeys to create impactful projects. Middle school teams will attend the September 28 training; high school teams will attend the training on September 29.

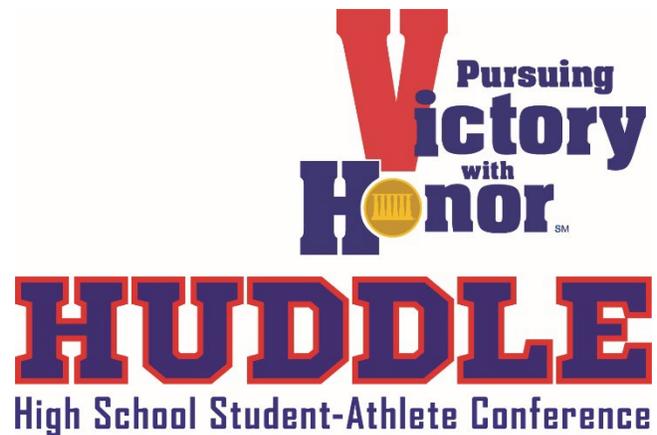
The Step Up Youth Challenge is coordinated on behalf of the County of Tulare by TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! program. For more information, contact Kelley Petty, program coordinator, at (559) 740-4303 or kelleyp@tcoe.org.

Photo above:

~ Pioneer Middle School was a category winner in the Step Up Youth Challenge last year.

Openings remain for first annual High School Student-Athlete Conference

The CHARACTER COUNTS! Pursuing Victory with Honor sportsmanship department has organized a free, full-day conference for high school student-athletes, scheduled for **September 13** in TCOE's Conference Center at 6200 South Mooney Boulevard in Visalia. Known as the Student-Athlete Huddle, the event will help participants develop leadership skills they can use on and off the sports field. The conference will feature a keynote speaker and breakout sessions on positive communications, college preparation, team building, social media, and nutrition. Tulare County student-athletes will serve as co-presenters for each breakout session.



Registration for the conference is nearing capacity. Tulare County high schools that have yet to register are encouraged to **contact Gene Mendes by August 24** at genem@tcoe.org or by calling (559) 737-6349, ext. 1303. For more information, visit tcoe.org/PVWH/Conference.

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