



For Immediate Release  
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## **TWO PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICTS AWARDED FUNDING TO ENHANCE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION**

**Monterey, CA** - The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District and the North Monterey County Unified School District today announced that they are recipients of a Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) competitive grant offered by the California Department of Education to support activities in three areas, including, well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and healthy students, or effective use of technology. Priority was given to districts or county offices with the greatest need based on the number or percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced breakfast or lunch.

MPUSD will receive \$859,147 and NMCUSD will receive \$701,481. They were among 51 school districts and county offices of education statewide to receive a total of \$44,080,000 available. The specific grant prioritized awards to applications that enhanced visual and performing arts education or implemented a comprehensive strategy to expand access to physical and mental health care.

“Arts integration is an enormously powerful strategic resource for improving education, particularly in schools within underserved communities such as North Monterey County. Just as we do not expect students to enter school able to read or add and subtract, we should not expect them to enter school able to do such things as control their impulses, organize their materials, work collaboratively, understand their feelings, or understand the feelings of others. Common Core State Standards and the future workplace require that students are capable of working in teams, collaboratively solving problems, and interacting with diverse people. This grant provides our teachers and students with the infused resources needed to make a significant impact within a nine-month time period,” said Kari Yeater, Superintendent, North Monterey County Unified School District.

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“Visual and performing arts are integral at MPUSD. We don't view these as icing on the cake, but rather an essential ingredient to a well-rounded education. Today, we partner with more than 20 arts-based non-profits to offer art, music, dance and theatre at all grade levels, and we've seen first-hand the benefits on student learning and school culture,” said PK Diffenbaugh, Superintendent, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. "Ultimately, this funding allows us to deepen instruction, encourage parental engagement, and improve school climate."

“The team at Sunset Cultural Center could not be more pleased to learn that two of our finest partner districts have been selected as recipients of this grant. As a Kennedy Center Partners in Education and Turnaround Arts: California regional coaching institution, Sunset Center has witnessed firsthand the amazing transformation in students, families, faculty, and campus culture that highly effective and impactful arts education initiatives can effect. We look forward to our continued partnerships and the exciting road that lies ahead for the entire North Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula Unified School Districts,” said Christine Sandin, Sunset Cultural Center, Inc. Executive and Artistic Director.

### **North Monterey County USD Grant Highlights**

NMCUSD, in partnership with the Sunset Cultural Center and the Kennedy Performing Arts Center, is implementing a districtwide Arts Integration model to increase student engagement and promote academic achievement. The grant project involves artists who conduct demonstration lessons with students while providing job embedded professional development for teachers who may earn course credit for completion of the training program. Educators will also participate in professional learning activities to expand their capacity to integrate social and emotional learning within the classroom to promote social development and responsibility.

During the summer months of 2019, a full comprehensive Summer School will provide Arts Integration lessons within all content areas during the daily morning session and in the afternoon, all students will participate in enrichment program activities, to include instruction in arts forms, STEM and computer science while the Summer School content area teachers participate in professional learning activities.

Additionally, wrap around services will be provided to students and their families to include expanded oral health screening, dental referrals, information regarding health insurance, and preventive health care screening, including vision, hearing, physical exams, and immunizations. Foster youth, students who are homeless, chronically absent, migrant, or lacking academic skills will have priority for Summer School participation. For the Kindergarten summer program, students who do not have preschool experience will have priority enrollment.

### **Monterey Peninsula USD Grant Highlights**

With this infusion of nearly \$1 million, MPUSD intends to strengthen access to and opportunities for a well-rounded education for all students by enhancing visual and performing arts education. The district will build on initial arts integration work at two of its Turnaround Arts schools – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School of the Arts and Marina Vista Elementary Arts Academy – to develop a Multi-Tiered Support and Engagement through the Arts (MTSEA) initiative at nine schools, designed to support student success through engagement in the arts, and to address social-emotional and other barriers to students’ full engagement in school and learning.

Over the course of the grant, professional artist instructors will train and coach transitional kindergarten through 8th grade teachers in arts instruction and in integrating arts into core subjects, including language arts, math, science, and social studies. Teachers will also receive 10 hours of intensive arts education integration and lesson planning from CSU Monterey Bay specialists and participate in 20 hours of arts curriculum planning workshops with artist instructors during a four-day Summer Institute.

Students in grades TK-8 will receive double the amount of arts instruction that is currently offered in their classrooms, including gradual integration of arts into core subjects. Students will be exposed in after school arts activities, including the production of two plays at middle school, and four plays at elementary schools.

Tying in social and emotional strategies, students with major behavioral and social-emotional challenges will receive one-on-one service from a contracted art therapist and/or from a family services specialist, as well as group social-emotional interventions and supports from teachers.

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