

CVUSD

Strategic Arts Plan

2022 - 2027



Conejo Valley USD Arts Mission Statement

Strategic Arts Education Plan

2022-2027

In Conejo Valley Unified School District, we believe ALL students deserve an exceptional educational experience filled with opportunity and choices

We believe that equitable access to a well-rounded arts education, in part, fulfills this promise and gives every student opportunities to access creativity and innovation, connect to self and others, and develop a deep sense of well being and authentic academic success.



Strategic Arts Process

The Strategic Arts Planning process included:

1. Review of current arts programs and practices in the district;
2. Identification of a Practical Vision for the Arts for the next 5 years;
3. Identification of Strengths and Challenges;
4. Clarification of Strategic Directions to define plan priorities;
5. Writing the Action Plan to articulate Goals, Actions and Timeline.



Strategic Arts Education Plan

Executive Summary

- The Strategic Arts Planning Team in collaboration with district leadership *is dedicated to an equitable, sustainable arts education system* for Conejo Valley Unified School District with sequential, standards-aligned curriculum, increased staffing and robust structures to deliver excellence in all art forms.
- A primary purpose of the arts is to connect to the parents, families and community that make the Conejo Valley Unified School District a sought-after educational institution.
- We are proud that the arts create a magnet for parents and families, build community within our school sites, and set students up for college, career and life-long success and fulfillment.
- We want to give our students that platform to develop their creative voice to meet the evolving needs of the 21st century. All of this is contextualized within a framework of understanding that the challenges of an increasingly complex world will require unprecedented ingenuity, collaboration and critical thinking skills.



Strategic Arts Education Plan

Executive Summary

- The Arts Committee developed an understanding of the **strength of music** in the district and a real opportunity to expand that program with general music, with additional credentialed music teachers to offer an outstanding curriculum with sequential skill development. Creating an even stronger pipeline to the middle school and high school programs will expand and strengthen secondary arts learning experiences for all of the students involved. As the years go on, expanded emphasis will be placed on the other arts disciplines, including dance, theatre, visual arts and media arts.
- The concept of **integrating the arts into core content areas**, especially in K-5 classrooms, was embraced by the team as a strategic initiative. It has been seen that early exposure to a range of arts disciplines from visual arts to theatre to media arts, can enhance student depth of knowledge in other content areas and reach learners that might not otherwise be so engaged. Building capacity for self awareness and social awareness leads to more collaborative classrooms. Promising practices for integrating arts for English Learners and for Students with Disabilities continue to develop throughout the state as inclusive practices.
- A third area of strategic interest surfaced by the team is that **policy and funding** need to be set in place that will provide equity and access in perpetuity, regardless of administrative transitions, state funding changes or other factors. A commitment to the arts is a commitment to a well-rounded education that values the entirety of the student experience.

CVUSD Arts Planning Team

Over the course of January-April 2022, the CVUSD Arts Planning Team met every two weeks to build consensus and envision greater access and equity to arts education for every student.



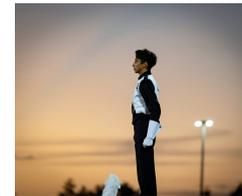
*Consulting
Group:
Mindful
Strategies,
Inc.*

Arts Planning Team

- Ricardo Araiza Director, Multilingual Learners and Equity
- Julie Bernard, Art Specialist - Aspen / Parent
- Katie Berry, Elementary Counselor
- Elizabeth Blake, Teacher, Westlake / Los Cerritos Strings
- Jason Branham, Administration - Principal, Westlake High
- Michael Freed, Asst. Dir Redwood, TOHS, sub at Los Cerritos
- Alison Friedman, Art Teacher (credentialed) - Aspen
- Cindy Goldberg, Trustee, Board of Education
- Brynn Hutchison General Ed Teacher (K-5) - Lang Ranch
- Nicole Judd, Principal, Redwood Middle School
- Kim Kilgore, Former CVUSD Strings Coach, Arts Parent, Studio violinist
- Frank Laguardia, Music teacher at MATES and CLU / Parent
- Eric Lindroth, Teacher, NPHS - Photo
- Kenneth Loo, Assistant Superintendent - Instructional Services
- Beth Pearcey Neal, Acacia Magnet School
- Brian Peter, VAPA Coordinator CVUSD / WHS Jazz Band
- Alec Proudfit, Recent Alumni, Strings Coach, photo & media
- Denise Reader, Conejo Schools Foundation
- Niki Richardson Director, TOArts
- John Sargent, Newbury Park, Choir
- Dena Sellers, Director of Elementary Education
- Jonathan Serret, Cultural Affairs Director, City of T.O.
- Marilyn Strange Teacher, Theatre, NPHS
- Karen Surmani, CSUN Arts, Music Education / Student Teacher Supervisor / parent
- Karen Sylvester Trustee, Board of Education
- Vivian Vina, Principal, Glenwood Elementary
- Kirsten Walker, Principal on Special Assignment (POSA) - special education focus
- Nicole Wall, Teacher (ELD & Art - Middle School) & ELD Advisor
- Sonia Wilson, Director of Middle Schools

Peggy Burt, Arts Education Strategic Planning Facilitator, Mindful Strategies Consulting.

Our Vision for the Arts: CVUSD



The Strategic Arts Planning Team developed the following visionary blueprint to define what success will look like as we implement our Strategic Arts Education Plan. We will have:

- **Well Articulated Visual Arts & Performing Arts Curriculum**
Systematic, standards-aligned and assessed arts curriculum, together with arts integrated instruction, that creates a sequential, well-articulated progression of arts learning for all students.
- **Increased Staffing for Expanded Access**
A staffing structure that supports intentional collaboration from the elementary level through high school. Staffing at the elementary level will include equitable assignments of arts specialists, moving toward placement of credentialed teachers with a specialization in the arts. Dedicated, single-subject arts teachers will offer arts education at both the middle and high school levels.
- **Inclusive Learner Supports**
Our arts plan is designed to support all students to have a broader and deeper engagement with the arts. *All students*, including English Learners, Students with Disabilities, or those who have been recognized to need additional mental, emotional or physical supports, will be provided access to the arts.
- **Dedicated Space, Equipment and Supplies for the Arts**
Dedicated spaces for specific Visual and Performing Arts education at all sites across the district, with industry standard equipment and supplies that will be updated as necessary, along with proper storage solutions to protect valuable assets. Higher visibility for Visual and Performing Arts will be explored through displays and showcases at every school site.

Our Vision for the Arts: CVUSD cont...



- **Expanded Community Connections**

A robust system of communications will be developed to create awareness, partnerships and collaborative opportunities between local artists, arts organizations and the classroom. Educators and administrators will have better access to information about what is available in our own community for the benefit of teachers' and students' arts learning.

- **Equitable, Sustainable funding**

An increased budget for the arts with secure, diversified funding sources that are distributed equitably and consistently and demonstrates the commitment of the district and community. An understanding of the role of parent funding, district funding and grant funding will inform the overall budget. The Budget shall include a plan for capital outlay that ensures maintenance, replacement and upkeep of equipment and facilities.

- **Demonstrated Value of Arts through dedicated time**

Establishment of consistent times at the elementary level in which arts are taught within the school day. Arts are offered through careful attention to the master schedule/elective scheduling and are specific to the needs of students at each school site.

- **Arts Policies that are inclusive of all students and are designed to protect and extend equity in perpetuity**

All members of the education community understand the underlying policies that support and protect the arts as a core discipline for students TK-12, and that these policies will remain constant over time and administrations. The goals, programs and actions that may be included in LCAP, SPSAs, etc. are inclusive of the arts, and are adopted and implemented across the district.

Strategic Directions: Goal Areas



The following outlines the four strategic directions and corresponding goal areas that will shape our implementation:

- **Strategic Direction #1: Developing and Providing Excellence in Arts Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Learning**
 - ◆ **Goal 1.1** Structure a comprehensive, articulated VAPA Program and a cohesive, baseline education in VAPA to integrate the arts in all areas of CVUSD in a collective effort to fortify academic achievement.
 - ◆ **Goal 1.2** Provide education and professional development to create a cultural/mindset shift as it pertains to the importance of the arts in education.

- **Strategic Direction #2: Ensuring High-Quality Staffing, Supported with Time & Resources**
 - ◆ **Goal 2.1** Commit to prioritizing Arts Education by staffing our schools with highly qualified Arts Educators.
 - ◆ **Goal 2.2** Ensure all students at all school sites have equal access to consistent, standards-based quality arts instruction.

- **Strategic Direction #3: Expanding and Deepening Community Connections & Communications**
 - ◆ **Goal 3.1** Utilize all available community partnerships & stakeholders.
 - ◆ **Goal 3.2** Communicate and advocate to all stakeholders what Arts Education is in CVUSD.

- **Strategic Direction #4: Providing Sustainability for Arts Education through Policies and Funding**
 - ◆ **Goal 4.1** Commit to Arts Education in plans and policies in CVUSD that are inclusive of all students and are designed to protect and extend equity in perpetuity.
 - ◆ **Goal 4.2** Plan for and designate funds to Arts Education at all grade spans

Why this Matters?



Offering a rich and culturally diverse arts curriculum that provides continuity of arts experience to all students from TK-12 will honor childhood - providing a stable place that can support a range of SEL needs for the whole child and whole family. As humans seeking joy, sometimes, we want to sing out loud, sometimes we want to doodle, and sometimes we want to dance as if no one is watching. The **arts can serve our ever changing SEL needs**. They do not expire upon graduation from high school. The **arts support quality of life for our whole lives**.

The **arts bring relevance** - why do I need to learn this? When will I use this? A coordinated arts curriculum will answer the questions - every day - everywhere. The arts show you how to look and how to listen. The arts are everywhere - they are impacting you subconsciously whether you know it or not. This will heighten awareness in our community amid our diverse cultures, allowing students to tune in and know themselves better.

Highlight Updates for 2022-23 School Year

- Add General Music instruction for all 4th and 5th grade students - 30 minutes/week
- Purchase instructional equipment and materials for General Music class
- Provide ongoing TK-5 integrated arts professional learning series
- Create Elementary Arts leads
- Continue work with Arts consultant and community partners



Questions?

