



# Amplifying the Arts

Volume 31, June 2024

## A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The Arts at Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) has many Students Arts Showcases available each year for parents and teachers to submit student artwork in art, music, poetry, film, theater, dance, and fashion. In this edition, we are sharing the thoughts and feedback from a parent whose two children have submitted and been recognized in several categories of the arts. Please enjoy reading this parent's perspective on the value of the arts!



### How did you hear about the various arts contests that RCOE offers?

I found out about the RCOE art contests when searching for pictures related to the 2022–2023 science fair. The RCOE Arts website showcased talented kids and it was uplifting to see the pride they demonstrated in their work.

### Why did you decide, as a parent, to assist your children in submitting their work?

My children love the arts, and we thought it would be fun for them to participate. They were also eager to showcase their creativity, so I made sure that their creations were submitted. My eldest was the first to participate in the "Get Your Style On" contest, and it was fun to watch him problem-solve, work within a budget, be creative, recycle, and learn to sew.

### Why do you think that the arts are an important part of your children's education?

As a parent, I think it's important to allow kids to express themselves artistically because it helps them develop and enhance their motor skills, self-confidence, creativity, problem-solving skills, and attention, which are skills that they need in school and life. Both my kids have ADD/ADHD and art has really helped them with their attention and concentration. I also believe that art has helped them do better academically and it's been an outlet for them to express their feelings. Further, art helped my youngest, who is a former Regional Center consumer, develop her fine motor skills and my oldest minimize his anxiety and stress during COVID.

### What was it like for your children to receive recognitions from the county for their artmaking?

My children were so proud of themselves, and they felt honored to receive recognition for their hard work. It also boosted their self-esteem and showed them that art, in its many forms, is valued and important to others too. As a parent, I was overjoyed to see them develop their passion for art and to receive recognition for expressing their creativity.

### What words of encouragement can you share with other parents who might consider submitting their children's work next school year?

We as parents can continue to support our children as they grow, shine, and flourish by encouraging them in their artistic endeavors. Art benefits our kids in so many ways, and we are fortunate because the RCOE Arts program is a great platform to showcase our Riverside County kids' artistic talent, creativity, and ingenuity. The program also offers several contests throughout the year therein there's several opportunities for your child to be recognized for their artwork. As a parent, I would strongly encourage you to submit your child's artwork to the RCOE Arts program. The process is simple and fast and all that's required is to upload a picture of your child's creation and submit a one-page entry form.