



THE FUTURE OF ARTS EDUCATION

By Robyn MacNair

Picture this: Italy, 1909. Poet Filippo Marinetti publishes his manifesto in *Le Figaro*, calling for a new culture rooted in machines, speed, and modernity—"the beauty of speed." Despite initial resistance, including audiences hurling rotten fruits, the futurists persisted, drawing from post-impressionism and cubism to capture modern life's dynamism. They, much like today's educators, grappled with articulating visions not yet realized. This mirrors the challenge in arts education—adopting technology and transdisciplinary methods to open a world of possibilities. Technologies like virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and artificial intelligence (AI) are revolutionizing how we teach and engage with art, enhancing creative expression and deepening understanding through interactive experiences. Alongside tech, interdisciplinary approaches such as STEAM, Project-Based Learning, and Phenomenon-Based Learning are breaking down educational silos, creating a holistic learning environment. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) enhances inclusivity and uses art for emotional well-being and cultural connectivity. Community engagement and collaborative art projects further empower students as innovative creators and community-oriented citizens. With strong community support and sustained Arts & Music in Schools funding, we are poised to transform arts education. Stay tuned... the future is now.

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SAUSD ARTS PODS

Listen in on topics creativity, collaboration, communication, and all things arts magic



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CELEBRATIONS

Theatre renovations are beginning, with key stakeholders conducting detailed walkthroughs to reimagine our spaces. Our community has enjoyed vibrant performances, from musicals to upcoming Concert of the Century and mariachi festival, which foster unity and celebration. Additionally, we're collaborating with school sites to ensure the sustainability of arts education tied to academic achievement. These initiatives highlight our commitment to enhancing creative opportunities for all. Cheers to continued arts learning, creativity and connection!



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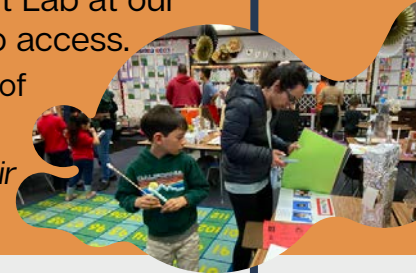
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SHOUT OUT

Ms. Mora & Mrs. Walters are both teaching art not only with their class but to other students. They host Art Club. Also, our principal is helping create an Art Lab at our school for all of us to access.

The MOMA (Museum of Muir Artists)

-- Belinda Noriega, Muir



COMING UP

Arts Funding @ the Getty

- Wednesday May 1

Literacy in Music Tour

- Monday May 6

District Based ILT

- Monday May 6

Art Liaison Team

- Thursday May 9

Memorial Day

- Monday May 27

Student Free Day

- Friday May 31





FULL S.T.E.A.M AHEAD: AWE & WONDER

By Robyn MacNair

Have you ever experienced the burst of enthusiasm when the solution to a problem suddenly pops into your consciousness? Science is now able to trace these creative “aha” moments. The research is also catching up to what artists have always known - the arts are essential to our well-being. We now have empirical evidence and much study on creativity and the brain. Creativity is an essential and highly sought-after skill. At the heart of our work as arts educators is creating spaces for students to thrive and experience a rich, meaningful existence. Learning in and through the arts fosters the flexing of creative muscles and puts us in a path to experience the states of mind that comprise what it means to flourish including curiosity and wonder and novelty and surprise. Scientists and artists, at first glance, might seem to occupy distinct worlds—one grounded in empirical data and the other in aesthetic and emotional expression. However, upon closer examination, they share many fundamental similarities in their approaches, methodologies, and even in the qualities they embody in their work. Did you know that most Nobel laureate scientists are also creatives? Nobel laureate scientists and artists share several key traits and habits, including engagement in artistic activities, cognitive flexibility, interdisciplinary thinking, and an appreciation for aesthetics. These findings underscore the value of fostering a broad range of interests and activities, both artistic and scientific, in nurturing creative and innovative minds prepared to embrace and flourish in the rapidly changing world.



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CELEBRATIONS

We're super excited to share that we've just wrapped up the 8th annual Boca de Oro and what a ride it's been! This year, we welcomed John Westmeyer as our new stage manager, who has been behind the scenes making sure everything from elementary school musicals to our 6-12 music performances and middle to high school shows run smoothly. He's been a huge help with the sound and tech for Boca de Oro, and we're all eager to see what he'll bring to our future live shows.



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These [Ian Fowles and Adrian Scherger] guys are always ready to collaborate. No matter how crazy the idea or involved the project, they always ready for the challenge and find ways to share that enthusiasm with their students. So glad to call these guys colleagues.

-- Eric Timmons



COMING UP

Spring Break

- Apr. 1 - 5

Elementary Music ILT

- Monday Apr. 8

Art Liaison Team

- Thursday Apr. 11

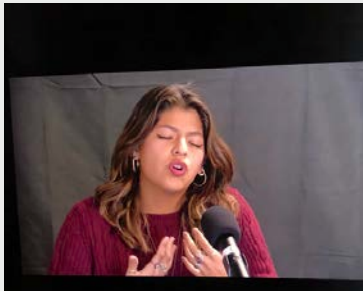
Secondary Final PLC/PD

- April 16 (zoom)

Open House

- ES Apr. 18
- IS Apr. 25





AMPLIFYING STUDENT VOICE

By Robyn MacNair

Did you know that the brain isn't fully mature until the mid to late 20s? By age 16, teens can think abstractly, handle multiple concepts, and anticipate the outcomes of their actions. Yet, adults often dictate how young adults should act and learn, underestimating their capacity for complex thought. Recognizing these developmental stages is crucial for appreciating the importance of giving students space to express themselves and contribute to their learning environments. In SAUSD Arts, March's Youth Arts Month celebrates this by amplifying student voices through art. For eight years, we've collaborated with Downtown Santa Ana and the city to showcase student creativity in literary, dance, theatre, music, media and visual arts. These efforts affirm our students as learning collaborators, highlighting the arts' role in fostering complex expression and thought. This year, we spotlight our Art Student Union (ASU) students who use design thinking to advocate for arts equity in their communities. Empowering them with skills and spaces to effect change, we cultivate future leaders who value their voices and impact. Let's continue championing these young minds by providing platforms to shape their education and communities. Through the arts, we amplify student voices, preparing them for a future where they're the creators of change and students are architects of their own learning.

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CELEBRATIONS

SAUSD Arts has had a busy month! In February, we expanded our team with Sabrina Rojas, site clerk, and John Westmyer, site stage manager. We celebrated the voices of our LitCon students which was broadcasted live on Facebook and SAUSD YouTube channels. We also celebrated our Parent OC finalists Ammy Beltran, Evan Rathe, Cassie Olah, and Dr. Perla. Not to mention, Liz Solares and her mariachi students winning the CABA Mariachi Festival contest!



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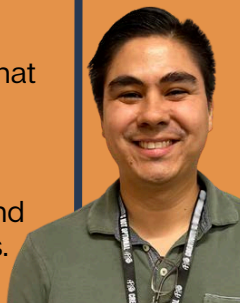
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SHOUT OUT

Big shout-out to an extraordinary colleague whose support, willingness to cover classes, and musical gift uplift us all. - Jeremy DeLa Cuadra

SAUSD Arts is thrilled to announce that Dylan and the Willard Jazz Band will perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, a proud moment brought to us by Turnaround Arts and Dylan's incredible support of the arts.



COMING UP

Boca De Oro

- Saturday Mar. 2

Elementary Music ILT

- Monday Mar. 11

Art Liaison Team

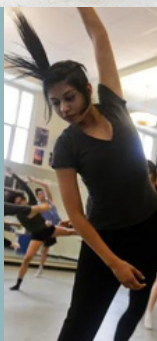
- Thursday Mar. 14

Secondary Content Specific PLC/PD

- Tuesday Mar. 12 - Th/Da
- Tuesday Mar. 19 - Mus
- Tuesday Mar. 26 - VA/MA

High School Open House

- Thursday Mar. 28





HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

By Robyn MacNair

Have you ever found solace in doodling or lost yourself in music? This is the art of being human. The arts are not just a creative outlet; they are our bridge to holistic well-being and authentic self-connection. In a world grappling with trauma and mental health challenges, the arts stand as a guiding light of resilience and healing. Arts education transcends conventional teaching, integrating creative youth development, social emotional learning (SEL), and culturally-responsive pedagogy. It nurtures not just skills, but the whole person, within a community context that promotes collective and individual healing. For educators and students, healing-centered engagement begins with self-awareness. It's about recognizing and redefining personal pain as strengths, engaging in artistic creation to restore identity and belonging, and emphasizing community healing as a collective journey. The arts are grounded in creating and redefining by engaging in artistic creation as a means of redefining trauma, restoring identity, and fostering a sense of belonging. By embracing the arts, those touched by trauma can transform pain into passion and purpose, paving the path from recovery to a flourishing future. Let's champion arts programs that embody these holistic healing principles, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive through the transformative power of the arts.



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CELEBRATIONS

Empowering the next generation of changemakers, our inaugural Art Student Union (ASU) team met and started their journey of creative activism and community transformation. Inspired by Tiana Day's vision of artistic spaces for youth to drive social change, our students delved into a design thinking sprint with Dr. Sabba Quidwai, transforming their barriers and dreams into tangible actions. Collaborating with the innovative minds at Focus Your Ideas (FYI), they're now turning their visionary ideas into reality through a custom-designed app. Together, we're not just imagining a new world – we're creating it.



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SHOUT OUT

Margaret Segalla from Segerstrom High School for her tireless dedication to our students and our SAUSD art community.

--Michael Gamnig

Elizabeth Solares has been honored as California's Music Director of the Year by The School Band and Orchestra magazine. Let's celebrate her remarkable achievement!



COMING UP

HOLIDAYS

- Monday Feb. 12
- Monday Feb. 19

Elementary Music ILT

- Monday January 8

Art Liaison Team

- Thursday Feb. 8

LitCon Finalist Live!

- Thursday Feb. 15

Secondary Whole Group PLC/PD

- Tuesday Feb. 22 All Arts





DESIGNING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

By Robyn MacNair

"They say a goldfish will only get as big as its bowl
But when you put it in a tank, the space can change the
way it grows

It needs to have the room or its potential doesn't show
So its environment is essential for unleashing the
unknown" – poet IN-Q

Much like the goldfish that flourishes in a spacious tank,
our students' potential grows in environments that
nurture their creativity and sense of belonging. By
integrating the arts into learning spaces, we can foster
this transformation with a vibrant, engaging atmosphere
where every student feels valued and inspired to explore
the full spectrum of their abilities and interests by acting
as the bridge connecting students to diverse cultures,
histories, perspectives whether through creating,
observing or discussing, stimulates critical thinking and
emotional intelligence. Recently SAUSD Arts has
surveyed theatres and multipurpose spaces across the
district to transform the space to be places of community
and resonance where students, staff, parents, and
community members alike are welcomed to create, to
grow, and to be inspired. In this work, the arts are no
longer just aesthetics but the fundamental tool for holistic
development of all who engage in the space of the arts.

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CELEBRATIONS

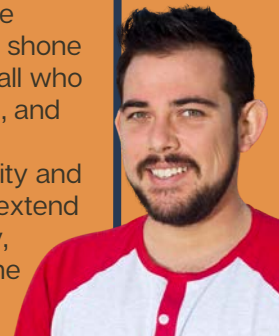
SAUSD Arts is moving forward in
collaboration with SAUSD Facilities
department and Maintenance and
Operations to start work on our capital
projects involving theatres districtwide!
With the arts block grant funding,
SAUSD Arts is looking to shore up
theatres and restore their functionality,
welcoming communities from all over
SAUSD.



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We pay tribute to Keith Morton, a cherished
member of the SAUSD Arts District Music
family, whose sudden passing has left us
with heavy hearts. Keith's remarkable
dedication to music and his students shone
brightly, touching lives and inspiring all who
knew him. His legacy of joy, strength, and
unwavering passion for teaching will
continue to resonate in our community and
beyond. We honor his memory and extend
our deepest sympathies to his family,
promising to keep his spirit alive in the
music and lives he enriched.



COMING UP

Winter Break

- January 1 - 5

Elementary Music ILT

- Monday January 8

Art Liaison Team

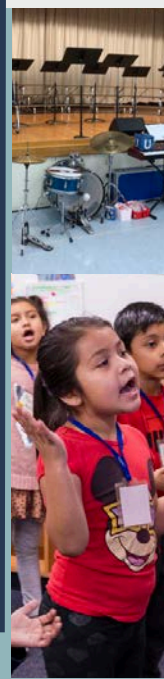
- Thursday January 11

Art Student Union Kickoff

- Thursday January 18

Secondary PLC/PD

- Tuesday Jan. 23 All Arts





THE POWER OF "YES! AND..."

By Robyn MacNair

In theatre, the rule-of-thumb "Yes! And..." guides improvisational comedy, suggesting an improviser accept and expand on a statement. In the corporate world, this principle enhances brainstorming, fostering collaboration and open communication. Disney imagineers embrace "Yes! And..." in Blue Sky sessions, encouraging open-mindedness. Recently, Californians echoed this sentiment, saying "Yes!" to Prop 28, ensuring Arts and Music in Schools Funding. This backing allocates 80% to staffing, 19% to materials, and 1% to administration, promoting yearly accountability. The "and..." is left up to how SAUSD Arts will cultivate "Yes! And..." thinking for educators, envisioning an Arts Strategic Achievement Plan (ASAP) similar to a Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). This plan empowers schools to sustain and account for arts education funding amid funding uncertainties. Navigating this landscape, embracing "Yes! And..." allows for creativity, innovation, and a brighter future for education.

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CELEBRATIONS

Thanks to the Arts, Music, & Instructional Materials Block Grant, SAUSD Arts is fortifying existing district-wide arts programs and materials, prioritizing equity and sustainability. This foundational support pairs well for the new incoming Prop 28 Arts in Music in Schools funds where sites will be able to have another financial resource to sustain their programs. We are grateful to support shoring up our programs district-wide.



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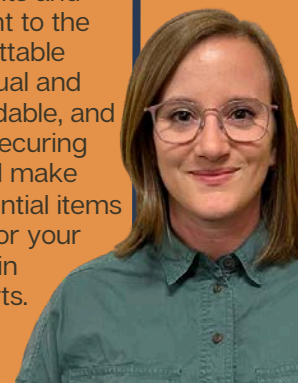
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A Big Shout Out to Ms. Evan Rathe, our exceptional Music Teacher and VAPA Department Chair at Lydia Romero-Cruz Academy! Your dedication to students and the arts, especially your commitment to the band program, has created unforgettable experiences. Your advocacy for Visual and Performing Arts access is commendable, and we celebrate your achievement in securing \$25,000 in funding. These funds will make a substantial impact, providing essential items for musical exploration. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and passion in fostering a love for music and the arts. Keep up the fantastic work!
--Principal Oralia Cordova



COMING UP

Elementary Music ILT

- December 4

Art Liaison Team PK-8

- December 7

SAUSD Arts ASU Meeting 1

- December 15

Save the Music Tour

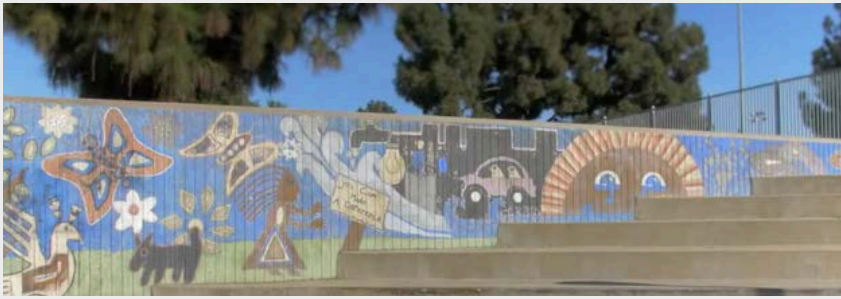
- December 19

Student Free Day (HS) / Modified (IS)

- December 22

Winter Break

- Monday December 25 - January 5



PATRONAGE, HERITAGE, CONSERVANCY & THE ARTS

By Robyn MacNair

Recently, SAUSD Arts has taken measures to conserve several historical murals throughout SAUSD schools. In doing so, listening, learning, understanding and engaging in the stories from community, and family members of the artists has opened new opportunities for the team and students across the district to fully engage in understanding our culture, heritage, and strength. Uncovering, restoring, and healing from the stories of our past has led SAUSD Arts to ask how we are patronizing the many artists that come through our doors seeking to be seen, affirmed, and held in high value that their life is their own canvas to create. From early generations to latest generations, SAUSD Arts looks at how we might develop patrons of the arts in efforts to better conserve and preserve our collective humanity. Our students, parents, leaders, and community members alike all have the ability to create art, because it is our greatest link to humanity. So, how might we empower artists, patrons, and enthusiasts to collaborate in the conservation of our artistic heritage, weaving a tapestry of cultural continuity?

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CELEBRATIONS

SAUSD Arts team presented to Orange County Arts & Music Administrators on how the arts supports special education students. Our SAUSD Special Education department joined the conversation to discuss how we might all be able to support the variability in our community and embrace the assets! .



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Nena Keller and the Century Arts Department Team has worked to create a culture of arts advocacy, engagement, and student centered experiences. Providing the space for colleagues to collaborate and find ways for all students to engage in meaningful arts experiences is at the center of the teams purpose!



COMING UP

Principals Palette

- Tuesday Nov. 7

Art Liaison Team

- Thursday Nov. 9

Art Department Zoom Meet

- **Th/Da:** Thursday Nov. 2
- **Music:** Thursday Nov. 16
- **VA/MA:** Thursday Nov. 30

Duty Day - Student Free

- Friday Nov. 3 IS/HS
- Friday Nov. 17 ES

No School: Friday Nov. 10

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 20 - 24



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CELEBRATIONS

SAUSD Arts hosted secondary arts educators and school site administrators to join the conversation about budgets, funding, programs, pathways and sustainability in creating a space where students are architects of their own life and learning. We want to celebrate the courage and time committed to this process from all!



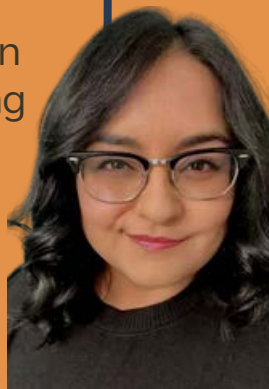
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SHOUT OUT

Ms. Yessenia Navarros' high school choir has been so supportive of our young singers at Heninger! They are a warm community and full of joy for singing.
-- Arie Lugo



AI & THE ARTS

By Robyn MacNair

The Twilight Zone's iconic opening, describing the boundary between light and shadow, science and superstition, encapsulates the realm where AI and the arts converge. In this domain, fear and knowledge coexist, fostering a world of creativity and dreams. Amidst the ever-changing tech landscape, we confront our fears, nurture creativity, and forge human connections. The arts serve as our guiding light. This space, though daunting, fuels productivity, accessibility, and humanity's forefront. For artists, the question emerges: Who designs the experience – creator, architect, or technology? How can artists infuse human expression into tech collaborations? Amid rapid technological evolution, from telegraphy to streaming, we find an opportunity to delve into our creativity, fortifying our bond with humanity. In preparing the next generation for an uncertain future, let's cultivate spaces of innovation, self-expression, and agency – let's foster the arts.

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COMING UP

Lynn Brinkmeyer Elementary Music

- October 4 & 5

Principals Palette Elementary

- October 5

Secondary Department PLC/PD

- Tuesday Oct. 10 Th/Da
- Tuesday Oct. 17 Music
- Tuesday Oct. 24 VA/MA

Design Thinking w/ Dr. Quidwai

- Thursday Oct. 26



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CELEBRATIONS

SAUSD Arts Elementary Music Educators took time and trusted the process to think through what a master schedule can look like that provides equity and access for all with a lens transformational approaches through design thinking and the use of AI!



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Shout out to Cristina Coury and Andrea Alejandres of SAUSD Arts' transportation team! They are the gears that keep us moving forward, quite literally. From memorable field trips to insightful industry excursions, Cristina and Andrea are the driving forces ensuring our students have the wheels they need to reach new horizons!



ARTS ARE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

By Robyn MacNair

Did you know? The founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin envisioned true Olympians as both gifted artists and athletes? Medals awarded for creative works between 1912 and 1948 echoed this true renaissance fusion. It should be no surprise that the arts have a profound impact on academic achievement as well. Countless studies have shown that the arts directly impact literacy, numeracy, and promote creativity, social development, personality adjustment, and self-worth - to name a few. So, why do the arts often find themselves sidelined in academic discussions? The notion of an individual being the architect of their own life and learning lends itself to understanding that each individual has the choice and ability to create for themselves a life of purpose and happiness. What that may look like is nebulous to say the least. It is in fact, a blank canvas. SAUSD Arts takes on the role of helping students, and educational leaders to wonder: What untapped potential lies within us when they're encouraged to harness the power of the arts and bridge the gap between artistic endeavors and conventional academia to create a life with purpose and joy?

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COMING UP

Back to School Night IS

- Thursday Aug. 31

Holiday Labor Day

- Monday Sept. 1

Secondary PLC & Principals Palette

- Tuesday Sept. 12

Art Liaison Team

- Thursday Sept. 14

College & Career Fair

- Thursday Sept. 28





THE ART OF COLLABORATION

By Robyn MacNair

In a world that emphasizes individual achievement, collaboration often goes overlooked, yet its power is extraordinary. When diverse minds converge, innovation and connection flourish, propelling us beyond our limits. Collaboration is a dance between inspiration and creation, where ideas intertwine and new pathways emerge. It uncovers hidden sparks, tapping into our dormant creativity. Artists and creators recognize collaboration's transformative power, shattering boundaries and resonating deeply with audiences through authentic and organic moments. As we plan our 2023-24 school year, let us look to conversation, where we can find the potential for limitless possibility. Let's embrace the magic of collaboration and let our collective creativity flourish in partnership.

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CELEBRATIONS

SAUSD Arts celebrates our summer programs! Thanks to our teachers, collaborators, parents, and students, we brought community back to watch live theatre, music, and engage through arts integration throughout SAUSD!



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Joining in January, Lindsey Barfield is SAUSD Arts new program specialist! Taking on our mural projects, Art Student Union programming, and summer programming, we love to affirm all her hard work in collaboration with the many across the district!



COMING UP

Duty Days - PD Prep

- Wed. - Thur. August 9 & 10

First Day of Fall Instruction

- Monday, August 14

Fremont Restoration Unveiling

- Friday, August 18

ES Back to School Night

- Thursday, August 24

HS Back to School Night

- Thursday, August 31

