



BENNETT VALLEY
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Bennett Valley Education Foundation (BVEF) Programs

Your tax-deductible contributions to the Bennett Valley Education Foundation fund the rich array of visual and performing arts programs at Yulupa and Strawberry schools*. Every student in our district learns fine art techniques, art history, music appreciation, and multicultural dance from highly skilled, experienced art educators. Unique to our school district, these programs and the artists who lead them are recognized by students and families as a beloved part of their educational experience.

Music Appreciation with Kara Kaufman: Kara Kaufman is a dedicated and passionate musical professional who brings a wealth of elementary music experience to the Bennett Valley District. Kara is also the elementary music teacher at the Mark West Springs Union School District, where she directs students in the choir, band, and orchestra. A gifted vocalist and instrumentalist, with a personal passion for the violin, Kara's dynamic curriculum creatively engages students through music, enabling them to gain an appreciation for music theory, musical history, world music, rhythm, singing, and the performing arts.

Visual Art with Kelley O'Leary: Kelley O'Leary, our Artist-in-Residence, is a professional visual artist and designer emphasizing in people, places, technology and feelings. Born and raised in Massachusetts, Ms. O'Leary believes in helping students bring to life the stories behind their art through diverse mediums, such as photography, collage, ceramics and pastels. BVEF funding offers students diverse opportunities to express themselves through the medium of art instruction and class interaction. The importance of art is highlighted through relevant art history, structured to the curriculum and abilities of the different grade levels. Through the art-making process, students develop confidence, skills and practice constructive thinking. Students are also engaged in the creation of unique works of art for BVEF's annual Valley of the Arts fundraiser.

Multicultural Music, Movement, and Dance at with Tina Malone: Earnestine (Tina) Malone has been dancing for 30+ years and teaching dance for 20 years. Her childhood dreams of following her uncle's footsteps as a Broadway dancer and choreographer led her to launch M. Studio Dance Company in 2010 and after school program "KidzGroove" in 2011. At both Yulupa and Strawberry Schools, Tina teaches students to express themselves with dance, enjoy dance as exercise, and appreciate the origins of the dances they perform. Students establish a cultural connection to each grade level's history curriculum.

Art Docents: BVEF trains parent volunteers to lead art lessons, offering a fun, hands-on way to bring classroom studies to life. Each class enjoys 2-3 art docent lessons utilizing various media including clay, paper, acrylic and watercolor paint, and more, all coordinated with grade level academic studies.

First-Year & Advanced Band Programs: Strawberry's band programs are led by professional musician, Jim Passarell, who plays virtually every instrument you can think of. These programs teach students to read music and play their instrument independently and with fellow musicians in both concert performances and as a marching band in the Rose Parade. Band and Percussion (see below) Programs are open to all students. Practices are held in the mornings before the start of the school day.

Percussion: Patrick O'Connell is a noted percussionist who has performed for three U.S. Presidents! His program is a specialty for our district. Students learn to read music, rhythm, proper technique, and to play with other musicians. Drummers are included in the band for all concerts and events.

Strawberry Gleeagles (Chorus): Kara Kaufman brings her wealth of hands-on choir experience to Bennett Valley, as she is also currently the director of the elementary choir in the Mark West Springs Union School District. Strawberry's very popular choral music program introduces students to choral music, rounds, beginning harmonies and singing both accompanied and a Capella. Open to all Strawberry students, the Gleeagles practice Wednesday afternoons immediately following school.

* Classroom programs in visual art, dance and music appreciation are **funded 100% by family contributions and donations to BVEF**. The Band and Chorus programs are partially subsidized by BVEF, ensuring that every student can participate in the music program, regardless of ability to pay.