



## **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. [BVEF.net](http://BVEF.net)

**Multicultural Music, Movement, and Dance 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.

**Strawberry Gleeagles Choir Director Marla Tusa:** Marla Tusa is a dedicated and passionate musical professional who brings over 15 years of formal music teaching experience with all age groups to the Bennett Valley District. Marla is the Director of the Training and Intermediate Groups for the Santa Rosa Children's Choral Academy, and effectively fosters a love of music in all of her students. A gifted vocalist and instrumentalist who is fluent in French, Marla'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.

**Strawberry First-Year & Advanced Band Programs with Sara Williams:** Strawberry's band programs are led by professional musician, Sara Williams, who is also the Band Director at Slater Middle School. 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 programs are open to all students.

**Visual Art with Nancy Ray Ricciardi:** A noted Sonoma County landscape painter, Nancy has worked for over 30 years as an artist-in-residence in our local public schools and for decades has championed the cause of keeping art alive in our schools. Nancy's unique program consists of four disciplines: history, criticism, aesthetics, and artistic technique. Her process-based approach centers on the studies of individual artists, their philosophies, techniques, and contributions. Nancy leads art sessions for all grades at both Yulupa and Strawberry Schools.

**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.



\* 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. (Federal Tax ID 68-0286878)