STEAM 22—Scientific Inquiry & Art Fair Student Competition
Calling all future scientists, programmers, engineers, artists & mathematicians

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 25th, 2022 when Nevada County will feature the efforts of STEAM education in a virtual learning showcase! The Nevada County Scientific Inquiry & Art Fair highlights students in Nevada County who will become our future scientists, technology experts, artists, engineers, and mathematicians. This competition celebrates the achievement of our students in grades K - 12, who are supported by their parents, teachers, schools and community to develop scientific inquiry skills.

Through this competition, students are challenged to connect their classroom studies to a testable question or problem to solve through project-based learning in the categories of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM). Students work independently or in teams to ask questions, research to build understanding, and report results in the fields of Computer Science, Environmental Science, Medicine & Health, Chemistry, Biology, Product Testing, Engineering, and more.

The Nevada County Scientific Inquiry & Art Fair is a collaborative effort that is sponsored by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office and our community partners. It is affiliated with the Society for Science and county judges select projects which go on to compete in other state and national competitions, including the prestigious California Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF).

The STEAM Expo 22 Nevada County Scientific Inquiry Fair will be held as a virtual event modeled after the 2020-21 CSEF Fair. Students will upload their projects, images, results, and optional video presentation, etc. for asynchronous judging. Schools are invited to submit their top 4 projects per class for competition consideration.

The Nevada County STEAM Art Fair will also be hosted through zFair and our student artists will have the opportunity to showcase their artwork that seeks to answer a question, solve a problem, or observe an issue or phenomenon through their design. Students may submit final art pieces for grade level competition as an individual, team, or whole group project in electronic format by Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 before 5pm.

Students will showcase projects in junior (TK - 5th grade) and senior (6th - 12th grade) divisions in their selected STEAM category. Fair participants are drawn from public, private, parochial and home-schools in Nevada County. The last day to submit projects for competition is Wednesday, March 23, 2022 by 5pm. Judging will begin on Thursday, March 24, 2022. A virtual awards ceremony will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022 at 1 PM and shared with all participants via the nevcoexpo.org website. If you are interested in participating, judging, or sponsoring this event, please contact STEAM Project Coordinator, Carolyn Ferrero at: cferrero@nevco.org

For more information and resources (including project templates, examples, and curriculum support), please visit: www.nevcoexpo.org
Reflecting on Equity PD with Nicole Tucker

The January and March Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice sessions with Nicole Tucker-Smith address issues of equity - a focus selected based on feedback received from SEL CoP members at the end of last year. Tucker-Smith is in her fourth year supporting the Nevada County Network Improvement Community UDL Project where she has led discussions about how to remove barriers for all students. The March 2021 issue of Educational Leadership includes her article “The Illusion of Equity PD.” In it, she addresses the dangers of equity PD that appears to work but leaves individual biases and systemic barriers unchanged. Ineffective equity PD often provides general information but doesn’t facilitate deeper reflection or lead to change. It may also expose knowledge gaps and help participants recognize the need for change without helping them determine the necessary steps to move forward.

Tucker—Smith’s approach changes that. Discussing the upcoming sessions, Tucker-Smith explained that equity PD isn’t separate work but something that occurs in the context of a larger conversation, such as discipline, special education referrals, or content areas. Context becomes the key to driving equity work and to changing practice. The question is what each person needs to do in a given role or context. The conversation can be challenging because it requires people to reflect on their own biases. For example, labels like “defiance” and “disrespect” are about perception. “Calling in” rather than “calling out” supports people in changing their behaviors. This creates a “brave space” rather than a “safe space” and helps students learn that “in understanding differences, we find our shared humanity.” All members of our educational community are welcome to register for Tucker-Smith’s January 26 session “Identifying Implicit Bias, Confronting Microaggressions, and Changing Practice” and “Attending to How Identities are Represented in the Learning Space” on March 2. Participants who attend the full session will receive either diverse classroom posters or equity-related books to support continued work.

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools will be hosting a virtual Creative Writing Competition for 7th and 8th graders again this year. Each school is invited to enter one student per grade (7th & 8th grade only). This would also create an opportunity for your school to host your own competition before choosing submissions from one 7th and 8th grader for each school.

Submission deadline is Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

For competition rules/prompts and any questions, please email writingtournment@nevco.org or call Olivia Carson at 530-478-6400 x.2008

We look forward to reading your submission!
What is mathematical mindset and how can we leverage this concept as teachers in our instructional design? Join us in our countywide collaboration that is building upon Carol Dweck’s landmark mindset theory and Stanford University’s Jo Boaler’s mission to make math accessible to all. Together, we will examine current research, develop strategies to encourage a mathematical mindset, and learn best practices for providing equitable access to all students. All TK-12th grade Nevada County mathematics teachers are welcome to attend this FREE workshop.

This workshop provides the following classroom connections…
- Connections to the concept of mindset theory
- Growth mindset
- Classroom strategies for supporting equitable access to math education
- Strategies and suggestions for reducing math anxiety in the classroom
- Ways to support both high- and low-performing math students
- Classroom activities and connections that engage students in math learning

Mathematical Inquiry Skills
Thursday, February 3rd, 2022 from 8:30-3:00pm
1. Introduction to Inquiry Mathematics and Project-Based Learning NCTM
2. Exploring Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships: Making Math Matter NCTM
3. Mathematical Mindset Shifts

4. “Make Space” - Collaborative planning period for lesson design & concept integration

BONUS: Preparing for the CAASPP through Focused LABs & STEAM Expo Math Competition

CLICK HERE and register today to confirm your attendance in this limited space workshop hosted at Nevada County Superintendent of
Independent Living Program

We will get the privilege of announcing our gingerbread contest winner with you next month and we will feature the pictures for some extra fun. The Gingerbread contest will take place between December 14th with entries due December 31st. We will send the entries to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools’ staff for placing the second week in January. The winner will be announced on January 11th 2022 and awarded a $20 Amazon card, $20 IHOP gift card and a feature in the Nugget Newsletter. This is our second annual Gingerbread decorating contest and we are looking forward to seeing the creativity that builds in the form of gingerbread.

Foster Youth Services had a successful Nurtured Heart approach training and we will host another one on February 12th, so be on the lookout for that training announcement.

The Transitional Housing Plus Program it is a privilege to work with service providers. We are always looking for home owners who are willing to rent to our transition age youth (TAY) and work with their supportive case managers to help these young people to start building a life in a home they can call their own. If that is you, please reach out to the Foster Youth Services department at Nevada County Superintendent of Schools’ office.

Arts in Education

Nevada County Media Center (NCM) is offering every student in Nevada County a FREE membership in 2022. NCM is the community hub to create, collaborate and learn MEDIA ARTS and more. Create with fellow students, collaborate with industry experts and learn about media!

Register today and click here to get started tomorrow.
Arts in Education

Did you know?
You and your school district are offered:

- A free PD on the 2019 California Arts Standards and Framework
- A free PD on Arts Integration Teacher Skills and Tools
- A free PD on Social Emotional Learning and The Arts

These PD offers can be either live or virtual.

Please contact NCSOS Arts Education Coordinator:
Kim Ewing at kewing@nevco.org
for more information and scheduling.

Educationally Speaking is a bi-monthly radio talk show on KMVR 89.5 with hosts Superintendent, Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing. Featuring teachers, students, and Nevada County community members discussing various topics and themes.

We would love to have you and your teachers/students on the show, showcasing and sharing out. Send Kimberly an email with your topic or event at: kewing@nevco.org

Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literacy history and contemporary life.

Contact Eliza Tudor at Nevada County Arts Council:
eliza@nevadacountyarts.org

Click here for more information.
Call to learn more about the activities and services offered at Family Resource Centers. We offer tutoring, clothes, playgroups, computers, a lending library, parenting support, and activities for adults and children. There is something for everyone. Call Viki at 530-273-4059 in Grass Valley, Laurie at 530-432-1118 x2249 in Penn Valley, or Kristin and Diana on the San Juan Ridge 530-292-3174.

Check out the FRC website [here](#).

**Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning (SAEL)** is a tuition free, project-based, public charter high school located in the NCE building in downtown Nevada City. Using the nationally recognized [EL Education](https://www.eleducation.org) learning model, students take their learning deeper with hands-on, interdisciplinary experiences in the classroom and in the field. With about 200 students in grades 9-12, the school is small and all students are known. In addition, the work our students do is relevant and applies to the real world. All students are supported to be ready for college and career after they graduate and graduation requirements at SAEL meet UC / CSU standards. Students at SAEL have been accepted to colleges like UC Berkeley, UNR, Chico State, Oberlin, Lewis & Clark, University of Washington, Cal Poly, Sierra College, and Butte College to name a few so far. The application is [online](#) and the deadline is March 25, 2022 for next year’s 9th grade. You can learn more about Sierra Academy on our [website](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

Our information sessions will be held on Zoom from 5:30 - 6:30pm PST on these dates:

- January 12, 2022
- February 10, 2022
- March 7, 2022
- March 23, 2022

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link and the passcode is 483661. Please reach out to Kristina McLean at 530-268-220 for more information.
### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 4, 2022</td>
<td>KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with Hosts: Scott Lay and Kim Ewing speak with students Ben Preston &amp; Steve Davis about the bike program at Seven Hills</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 13, 2022</td>
<td>Pediatric Plus CPR, AED, First Aid for Child/Infant/Adult</td>
<td>3:45 — 5:45 PM</td>
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<td>Click to register</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tuesday, January 25, 2022</td>
<td>KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with Hosts: Scott Lay, Kim Ewing and special guests</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 26, 2022</td>
<td>Social Emotional Learning—COP “Identifying Implicit Bias, Confronting Microaggressions, and Changing Practice”</td>
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**Submissions for future Nugget issues:**

**Please submit your request by the 15th of the preceding month.** Not all content received will be published as approval will be required for publication.

Email: ocarson@nevco.org  Prior issues of The Nugget can be found here.