On November 2 and November 3, 2022, forty-three (43) top 5th/6th grade spellers and thirty-seven (37) top 7th/8th grade spellers from local public, private and charter schools competed in the Nevada County Spelling Tournament, held at Miners Foundry Cultural Center. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office coordinated the annual event which was graciously sponsored by the KNN Group at Stifel and by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office.

“Spellmaster” Susan Clarabut, a local retired educator and current Nevada County Board of Education Trustee, volunteered her time and finesse, dictating spelling words for the group contest and conducting the individual oral spelling bee.

Each day commenced with school teams consisting of up to five students competing for the overall best team award. The top individual students with the highest cumulative correct score then participated in the individual spelling bee.

In the 5th and 6th grade team competition, Grass Valley Charter School earned the first-place award. Placing second was the Cottage Hill/Magnolia School team. The third-place award was won by the Lyman Gilmore School team.

In the 7th and 8th grade team competition, Nevada City School of the Arts team earned the first-place award. Placing second was the Magnolia School team. The third-place award was won by the Mt. St. Mary School team.

The following students participated in the Individual Spelling Bees:

**5th & 6th grade Individual Spelling Bee:**
Aleah Britt - Cottage Hill/Magnolia
Asher Kulp - Grass Valley Charter School
Casey Reed - Cottage Hill/Magnolia
Desi Oakes - Grass Valley Charter School
Jasper Levinson - Lyman Gilmore School
Jedi Haynes-Hauser - Lyman Gilmore School
Kameron Scott - Mt. St. Mary School
Lily Solada-Nelson - Cottage Hill/Magnolia

**7th & 8th grade Individual Spelling Bee:**
Caleb Redmond - Mt. St. Mary
Essie Sender-Muller - Nevada City School of the Arts
Illiana Thompson - Magnolia School
Jaylen Hale - Magnolia School
Koa Naranjo-Chang - Nevada City School of the Art
Oliver Massam - Lyman Gilmore School
Oliver Patterson - Seven Hills School
Safari Davis - Nevada City School of the Arts
Silas King - Ready Springs School

Jedi Haynes-Hauser (6th grade) emerged as the first-place champ of the 5th and 6th grade competition with Aleah Britt (6th grade) scoring as the second-place winner. Oliver and Caleb now qualify to attend the 2023 California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship to be held May 13th in Stockton, CA. Third-place went to Essie Sender-Muller (7th grade). Fourth-place tie went to Koa Naranjo-Chang (8th grade), Oliver Patterson (8th grade), and Safari Davis (8th grade).

**Spelling Tournament Winners**

Oliver Massam (8th grade) emerged as the first-place champ of the 7th and 8th grade competition with Caleb Redmond (8th grade) scoring as the second-place winner. Oliver and Caleb now qualify to attend the 2023 California State Junior High Spelling Bee Championship to be held May 13th in Stockton, CA. Third-place went to Essie Sender-Muller (7th grade). Fourth-place tie went to Koa Naranjo-Chang (8th grade), Oliver Patterson (8th grade), and Safari Davis (8th grade).

Congratulations to all student participants, teachers, and families. Many heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsor, KNN Wealth Management Group.
The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and The Nevada County Community Library present **Nevada County Reads.**

**2023 Book Selection:**

*Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu

This creatively, hilarious satire was dubbed one of the funniest books of the year. Written in script form, the author explores the themes of Asian American Identity, Asian American discrimination in the United States, personal growth and family relationships. Nevada County Library will be offering many copies of the book for check-out as well as hundreds of honor book copies which can be picked up as early as December. Nevada County Reads encourages everyone in the community to participate.

The Center for the Arts has recently received a grant from the California Arts Council that provides funding for a student matinee program for the next two years! Part of the grant covers transportation as well. The Center for the Arts is thrilled to be able to offer this to our community. Their first offering in the series is March 3rd, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

A student Matinee called *Meeting Mozart.*

Click the image to be directed to the webpage which includes information about the production- sample study guides, and curriculum connections. This particular show is best suited for ages 3-8, (preschool– 3rd grade).

The Art Docent Program is in full swing at six Nevada County school sites. Hundreds of our students are experiencing an enriched Arts curriculum. Seven Hills fourth grade teachers integrated an ADP lesson into the social studies Native American cultural unit, creating masks and baskets. Although the basket lesson is a sixth grade lesson, the curriculum tie-in could not be ignored.

Second graders at Deer Creek Elementary created mixed media pieces of art. Learning to represent their ideas with many different materials can be a powerful way to show learning in ALL content areas.
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools works with districts to provide professional development. Unit planning through an intentional design process is a professional development opportunity for districts. **Backward Design**, also known as backward mapping, is a framework for unit/content planning offered in the book *Understanding by Design*, written by Grant McTighe and Jay Wiggins. This model of unit design focuses on student learning and understanding by beginning the planning process with the end in mind.

Fundamental to backward design is the identification of learning goals, which encompasses the knowledge & skill we want students to learn (essential standards), and leads to selecting appropriate unit assessments. Being clear on the goal (the essential standards) and knowing how students will show evidence of their learning (unit assessment) precedes the intentional planning of how to teach the content to provide success for variable learners. Working smarter, not harder through the intentional design that backward mapping affords saves teachers time and energy.

For more information and an opportunity to support your district, contact Nancy Jackson:
njackson@nevco.org

Testimonials from Fall 2022 Backward Mapping Unit Design PD:

![Family Resource Center | Managing Your Children's Expectations Over the Holiday](image)

The holidays can be stressful for everyone, especially those with children. Managing children’s expectations around the holidays can help create a new, meaningful and truly enjoyable holiday season.

Click here to read “Managing Your Children’s Expectations Over the Holidays” for a useful and different approach. Going simple.

![Nurturing Parenting Winter 2023 Class Series](image)

Take the stress out of parenting with Nurturing Parenting’s evidence-based, interactive approach. For 35 years, this program has helped parents to deepen and strengthen their family relationships in all types of situations. Topics include:

- Communicating with Respect
- Loving Discipline and Logical Consequences
- Setting and Keeping Limits that Work
- Building Self-Worth
- Brain Development
- Dealing with Stress
- And much more!

8 Week Evening Series: Thursday 5:30-7:30pm
Jan 26-Mar 23
Nevada County Office of Education
2355 E. Augustine

8 Week Morning Series: Thursday 3:00-5:00pm
Feb 2-March 23
Nurturing Parenting Center
2355 E. Augustine

Cost per series: $165 | Scholarships available!

For questions or registration:
395-208-8008
janderson@nevco.org
For the 25th year, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), with the support of NCSOS, sent incoming 8th grade girls to the Tech Trek STEM camp at UC Davis. Eight Nevada County girls were sent to the week-long July camp where the girls were “plunged” into a program of hands-on STEM workshops and classes. Besides the educational aspect, the girls experienced college life, living in the dorms for the week with 90 girls and 20 plus staff from all over Northern CA. Each girl was given a sponsorship to attend from the AAUW Nevada County Branch, thanks to generous donations from community and branch members.

The girls attended STEM workshops, such as forensics, anatomy, media, sound engineering, math, vet science, food science, and entomology. If you have a chance to talk to the girls at your school who attended camp, you will witness enthusiasm and gratitude.

Last February each public middle school math, STEAM, or science teacher was asked to collaborate to nominate a maximum of four 7th grade girls per school for the Tech Trek Camp. Besides a recommendation from their teachers, these girls completed an application and essay. From there each girl was interviewed by members of the local AAUW Tech Trek Committee. This past school year, eight finalists were selected: Sophia Dell’Ara (Lyman Gilmore), Ella DesAutels (Magnolia), Samantha Flaherty (Grass Valley Charter), Tabby Gillespie (Seven Hills), Jaylen Hale (Magnolia), Leah Lubarsky (Clear Creek), Whitney Parnow (Seven Hills), Hailey Wilson (Forest Charter).

Nominees are selected based on their interest or aptitude in STEM among other characteristics. Besides the eight campers attending UC Davis, there were women from the Nevada County Educational Community who volunteered to be a part of the staff and the success of this camp: Susie Patterson (Scotten Principal), Michelle Baker (5th grade teacher Alta Sierra), Noelle Voorhees (student counselor Seven Hills), and Stephanie Facchini (retired teacher Seven Hills). Our amazing county has always been a huge part of the success of this camp.

In January, AAUW will begin providing teachers with nomination and application information for the 2023 UC Davis Tech Trek Camp.

Thank you to Olivia Carson, Teena Corker, and Scott Lay, as well as the principals and staff in the education community, for their support of this program.

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**Tech Trek 2023**

**Nevada Union High School Preview Night**

**2023-2024 School Year - Incoming Freshmen Class of 2027**

**9th Grade NU Preview Night: Wednesday, January 4th, 2023**

- At 6:30pm everyone will be invited to visit various stations set up in our MPR with student clubs, sports teams, academic booths, NU Parent Club, Counselors, and Registrars.

**9th Grade Future Miner Invitational: Thursday, January 5th, 2023**

- Students from nineteen local middle schools are invited to attend this event as a school-day event.

- Most students are bussed to NU with their 8th grade class. NU will coordinate with Durham.

**9th Grade Registration: Mid-January 2023**

- NU is excited to welcome our incoming Freshman Class of 2027! The online registration window will open in mid-January; please look for information on our website in the coming weeks. Feel free to reach out to our Records Office for additional information on the registration process.

**9th Grade Course Selection:**

- Once you have completed the online registration process, you will be able to schedule an appointment with your student’s counselor to discuss their academic plan and choose classes for their Freshman year. Course selection sheets that list all class options for Freshman as well as Course Preview videos will be available on the counseling webpage in January!
December is Universal Human Rights Month

Connections to Social Emotional Learning:
- CASEL 5 core competencies: social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.
- Empathy for Students from Greater Good in Education
- SEL for Students: Ethical Decision-Making and Social Responsibility from Greater Good in Education

Resources:
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights resources from the United Nations include translations, simplified versions, audio recordings, and history.
- Human Rights Day 2022 launches a year-long campaign focused on the legacy of the UDHR, leading to a celebration of its 75th anniversary on Dec. 10, 2023.
- Youth for Human Rights website includes videos, curriculum, and educator kits available at no cost.
- Facing History & Ourselves unit for grades 11-12

History of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948
- Drafting committee chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt
- Most translated document in the world (538 languages)
- First legal document to outline fundamental human rights to be universally protected

Questions about the Nevada County Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice?
Please contact Meghan Salter: msalter@nevco.org, (530) 478-6400 ext. 2054.
As part of the CalHOPE Student Support Program, NCSoS is partnering with five schools to support a cycle of continuous improvement around SEL. Teams first selected one focal area from CASEL’s school implementation rubric and developed a site plan. Throughout the year, they will meet regularly to discuss implementation, collect and analyze data, and make adjustments based on feedback. Each team is taking a unique approach to meet the needs of its educational community.

**Arete Charter Academy/Magnolia Intermediate (PRUSD)**

Arete and Magnolia combined teams to strengthen SEL in the Pleasant Ridge Union School District. The team selected CASEL Focus Area 2: Strengthen Adult SEL Competencies and Capacity with the sub-area of Staff Modeling of SEL as well as Focus Area 3: Promote SEL for Students. Within Focus Area 3, the team’s goals are to create teacher/student connections by building a healthy community in the classroom as an extension of “family” at school. In the process, staff will teach students to identify having and naming feelings as well as strategies to address and process those emotions. The team is implementing WhyTry? lessons and surveys to explicitly teach SEL content and to measure progress.

**Lyman Gilmore Middle School (GVSD)**

Lyman Gilmore’s team is focused on promoting explicit self-regulation skills school-wide. The team will concentrate efforts on CASEL Focus Area 1A (Build Awareness, Commitment, and Ownership) by gathering information through survey and observation data. Lyman Gilmore is also excited to welcome students to our Sunset Room (currently under construction) where they can have an opportunity to reset and refocus. The team plans to model SEL practices, such as box breathing and progressive muscle relaxation, for staff. The goal is to support students with self-regulation by increasing the number of strategies available and offering a welcoming space for breaks.

**Silver Springs High School (NJUHSD)**

The team at Silver Springs High School selected CASEL Focus Area 1A: Build Awareness, Commitment, and 11 CoP meeting, we met the other teams and had valuable time to collaborate and create an SEL plan tailored to our middle school students. Our CASEL-aligned focus area is Area 3: Promote SEL for Students. To promote SEL for ALL middle school students, we are focusing on Evidence-Based SEL Programs and Practices. Our objective is to have students strengthen their community, build relationships, and apply Second Step (our SEL program) in their daily lives. We aim to achieve this with specific teachers delivering weekly Second Step lessons and other classrooms aligning their circle time questions to the Second Step topic. This process ensures consistency of key SEL strategies being taught to all students and encourages community-building circle time in classrooms.

**Union Hill Middle School (UHSD)**

The Union Hill Middle School SEL team is very excited to be able to participate in the Nevada County Partner School SEL Implementation Program. At the October
Luella Dang, CTE Forest Charter high school student is pictured here with her teacher, Akim Aginsky, at the CTE Advisory Meeting in November at the county office. She presented her business project to the members and shared the benefits of learning entrepreneurship and someday owning her own small business. Christina Giffin, the NCSOS Career Advisor Liaison secured a two-year grant from the Strong Workforce Program to introduce a dual enrollment class within two charter high schools, Bitney Prep and Forest, giving students the opportunity to earn college Credits at the same time as earning high school elective credits. Akim Aginsky, teaches the entrepreneurship class, and brings his expertise as a small business owner in photography. This is the first time in-person CTE has been offered in NCSOS charter schools and with a multi-agency collaboration that includes Nevada County Human Resource Department where students are provided opportunities for internships.

Homeless Education

During the 2021-2022 school year, 265 students, ages 0-18, were identified as homeless through Nevada County schools. This includes students whose families were doubled up due to economic hardship as well as other transitional living situations.

On Wednesday, November 9, 2022, the Nevada County Board of Education passed a resolution declaring November ‘Homeless Youth Awareness Month’ in Nevada County.

Staff members wore Green on Wednesday, Nov. 16, to help raise awareness of this critical issue.

Click here to visit the NCSOS Homeless Education Services page to learn more.

November was National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.
The Foster Youth Kinship Education Program completed a well-attended Nurtured Heart Approach training via zoom last month. The next NHA training will be in person early Spring of 2023 at the Superintendent of Schools office.

The Independent Living Program wrapped up the 3rd annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest. The winner, number 6 shown above- "A Cinderella Carriage" that rolls on those pumpkin tires, won the contest and received an Amazon gift card as well as a pumpkin & praline cheesecake. There were six total entries of vast creativity and expression, also pictured here.

ILP class was recently hosted at a local auto shop, Gin's Auto Body. Gin hosted a hands-on class that focused on vehicle maintenance, care & ownership. ILP staff were most appreciative of this class and look forward to more upcoming field trips. Until then, we are gearing up for the annual ILP Christmas Party that will be in person again.

Twin Cities Church hosts our holiday party for current, former and alumni youth who were in foster care and legal guardianship placements. The community provides our students with stockings overflowing with goods, beautiful, handmade stockings and baskets of food goods to families. This will continue to be a favorite among our staff, students and their families.

The Transitional Housing Plus Program is successfully completing the program of two young people this month. THP+ staff has begun participating in the planning for the 2023 Point in Time count for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. The staff has also joined a statewide Continuum of practice to focus on the needs of youth housing and using housing choice vouchers as a rent payment.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a landlord that serves youth who were formerly in foster care or a legal guardianship, please contact Morgan Welty-Geisick at 530-478-6400.

On another note, if you or someone you know wants to give a big extra gift this holiday season, please consider donating (or selling at a low cost) a vehicle to someone in need. We have several young people who need reliable vehicles so if this is you, please contact Morgan.
Nevada County STEAM Expo 2023 - Back in Person!
Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics Showcase & Competitions
Calling all future scientists, programmers, engineers, artists, and mathematicians!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 25th, 2023 from 9 AM - 3 PM when Nevada County will bring STEAM education front and center through student showcases, school exhibits, academic competition, interactive activities, and community STEAM displays! The Nevada County STEAM Expo highlights the efforts of students in Nevada County who will become our future scientists, technology experts, artists, engineers, and mathematicians. This competition celebrates the achievement of students in grades K - 12, who are supported by their parents, teachers, schools and community to develop scientific inquiry skills.

We have several exciting opportunities for students to participate and registration is now open! To learn more or register projects, please visit www.nevcoexpo.org.

In addition to showcasing student work, we invite schools to showcase their STEM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) curriculum with a school exhibit or hands-on displays. We invite all Nevada County Schools to reserve a space to showcase STEM programs on Saturday, March 25th from 9AM-3PM at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, Main Street Center, Gate 1. To reserve a space for your school, please visit www.nevcoexpo.org.
Through the STEAM Expo scientific inquiry challenge, K-12 students are invited to showcase their learning around 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.

To register teams for the Scientific Inquiry Showcase & Competition visit: https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/science

To request a presentation on Scientific Inquiry Competition for staff or interested students, please contact Carrie Ferrero, at cferrero@nevco.org. We are happy to assist your team in preparing for the STEAM Expo!

Participating students will be eligible to compete in the K-12 Nevada County Science Fair for awards by grade level. Six students in grades 6-12 will be have their projects selected to compete in the statewide California Science and Engineering Fair.
To register teams for the Scientific Inquiry Showcase & Competition visit: https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/science

New this year - Checkout our Digital Media Category. To see last year’s winners at the CA Student Media Festival visit: CA Student Media Festival. The Nevada County STEAM Expo will be sending our top six projects onto the statewide CA Student Media Festival!

To request a presentation on the Scientific Inquiry Art Challenge for staff or interested students, please contact Nancy Jackson, at njackson@nevco.org. We are happy to assist your team in preparing for the STEAM Expo!
To register teams for Tech Test Jr. visit: [https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/techtestjr](https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/techtestjr)

To see sample problems with and without answers for students to practice prior to the team and individual test in February, visit: [https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/techtestjr/techtest-practice-tests](https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/techtestjr/techtest-practice-tests)

To request a presentation on Tech Test for staff or interested students, please contact David Pistone, at [david.r.pistone@gmail.com](mailto:david.r.pistone@gmail.com). We are happy to assist your team in preparing for the **Tech Test Jr. Math Competition**, and the Nevada County STEAM Expo!
This year, the Nevada County STEAM Expo 2023 will be held in person at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, Main Street Building, Gate 1 from 9am-3pm. Students will upload their projects, images, results, and optional video presentation, for asynchronous judging.

The last day to submit projects for competition is Wednesday, March 8, 2023 by 9pm. Judging will take place the week of March 13th-17th. Set-up for the Nevada County STEAM Expo will begin on Thursday, March 23, 2023 and we ask that all projects be brought to the Nevada County Fairgrounds, Main Street Building, Gate 1 for set-up between 9am-4pm on Thursday, March 23, 2022.

The Nevada County STEAM Expo is free and open to the public from 9AM-3PM on Saturday, March 25th. The awards ceremony will be held in person at the Nevada County Fairgrounds Main Building, Gate 1 on Saturday, March 25th from 2-3 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
Save the Date - Notice & Wonder Nevada County!
STEAM Student Showcase & Competitions
STEAM Community & School Exhibits
Saturday, March 25, 2023 From 9AM to 3PM
at the Nevada County Fairgrounds - IN PERSON!
For more information visit: www.nevcoexpo.org
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 6, 2022</td>
<td>HSI Adult First CPR, AED, Adult</td>
<td>3:45 — 5:45 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CLASS FULL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 8, 2022</td>
<td>Last Day to administer CHKS Survey</td>
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<td>Monday, December 19—30, 2022</td>
<td>WINTER BREAK</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 25, 2022</td>
<td>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 31, 2022</td>
<td>NEW YEAR’S EVE!</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](#).