



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ART

### Chimacum students are using the arts to find their voices

**C**himacum School District may be below average in size, but its art program is as robust as they come. Art students from the district have gone on to some of the most prestigious art schools in the country, and with the advanced courses offered at Chimacum Jr./Sr. High, students have the opportunity to earn college credit for art without ever having to leave campus.



From Ceramics and Drawing to the more conceptual Advanced Art course, Jr./Sr. High art teacher Gary Coyan knows that his classes are helping many students find their voice.

"Art gives students a way to make sense of the world," Coyan, the 2018 Olympic ESD 114 Regional Teacher of the Year, explained. "It gives students an emotional outlet for all of the thoughts and feelings they are having. This is especially important during this time of unprecedented change. A good art class also forces students to think for themselves and find answers that only they have."

As a result of virtual learning, Coyan assembled and delivered art supply packets and sketchbooks to each of his students' homes. His students also maintain a digital sketchbook, where they can upload photos of their work and receive feedback.

Once every two years, Coyan's students have the chance to leave a mark on the community through a biennial mural project. This project, which began as a tribute to a much-loved teacher, has evolved into a tradition that engages all art students at their level of ability, creating a visual reminder of their achievements.

"Even though we are a small, rural school, art students in Chimacum enjoy all of the benefits of programs at larger schools, but in a tight-knit community of artists," said Coyan.

TOP: An acrylic painting of a 1920s Chimacum Baseball team, featuring Chimacum All-American Tommy Yarr. Students in Mr. Coyan's Advanced Art class used a grid method to reproduce this piece of Chimacum history, with the help of an old photograph.

### PICTURE THIS!

#### 3rd graders celebrate Black History Month with art

At Chimacum Elementary School, the students in Mr. Orr's 3rd Grade class discovered a creative way to celebrate Black History Month. The students took pieces of torn paper and arranged them into a beautiful mosaic of Rosa Parks.



# ARTS



**BUILDING  
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In Chimacum School District, our students are combining Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) to learn, explore and problem solve in creative and innovative ways. Follow all of our STEAM learning at [www.csd49.org](http://www.csd49.org).



## Q&A with teacher Garth Gourley on music's impact



Music and band teacher Garth Gourley has been with Chimacum School District for 14 years, instructing students at all grade levels. We caught up with him to learn a bit more about his role, and the role of musical arts in the district, as he sees it. You can read his full interview at [www.csd49.org](http://www.csd49.org).

### *How has COVID-19 impacted the music program in Chimacum this year?*

Due to the safety requirements surrounding COVID, students have not been able to study instrumental music this year at Chimacum. Instead, secondary music students (grades 6-12) have been studying the history of rock and roll, and learning to create digital music and podcasts using Soundtrap.

### *Why do you think it's important for students to learn musical arts?*

I believe the musical arts are one of the most powerful social experiences we can provide students with. Our band students are given the opportunity to work together, fail together, succeed together, laugh together, cry together, grow together, encourage together, listen together, perform together, breath together and stay together—and those opportunities are just in the first 10 minutes of each class!

### *What is something about your program that you would like the community to know?*

Music in Chimacum School district would simply not be as successful as it is without community support. We're fortunate to have local businesses willing to donate space and time for student performances, and local festivals wanting to add our music. While we haven't been able to do a whole lot of that in the last few months, I'm hopeful that our community will be there as we work to bring the music back.

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## CAMPUS CONNECTION

### *Performing arts spaces get upgrades*

Chimacum School District's commitment to the performing arts would not be complete without a promise to maintain the facilities that allow students to flourish and shine, and thanks to recent upgrades to the Band Room and Auditorium at Chimacum Jr./Sr. High, students are able to do just that.

The school's Band Room recently received two types of new acoustic paneling: panels that absorb sounds on the walls, and panels that dynamically reflect sounds on the ceilings. Designed by the Wenger Corporation, the panels improve students' ability to hear one another within the ensemble and get a more accurate representation of the sounds they create individually.

"This, in turn, has allowed us produce better, more accurate performances in our space," said Band teacher Garth Gourley. "I'll never forget the first rehearsal the High School Band had in the space. They were very curious about the new panels and weren't quite sure what they would do. After our first scale of the day, one of the clarinet players leaned in towards me and said, 'Suddenly I don't think we're as good as we thought we were!'"

In the time since the panels were installed, Gourley said his students have worked harder and treated the rehearsal space with more respect, knowing that the district is invested in their work.

In addition to the new panels, 20-year-old carpet in the Band Room has been replaced and, in the auditorium, new curtains were recently installed to replace what was rapidly deteriorating.

"After the upgrades, I've been told by guests that our rehearsal spaces are starting to become some of the best around," said Gourley. "These improvements really do underscore our commitment to our students."