



# Jumpstart Art

A project to fund Redmond Elementary  
Schools visual art programs



Initiated by Dry Canyon Arts Association



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We are the Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA). Although we are located in Redmond, Oregon, our 170 members reside in the Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook counties. Our focus is to encourage and promote art and culture in this area with art education being a major priority. Our goal is to provide art education for all students in each of the Redmond School District's eight elementary schools through **Jumpstart Art**, a combination of donations, grants, and sponsors.

Almost 3,000 Redmond elementary students, an underserved community, currently receive very little, if any, art education. The District faces a significant funding shortfall for the 2024-2025 school year which will essentially eliminate those few art programs currently offered. District elementary schools rank very high in the poverty index, all but 1 school ranks above 50%, while one school ranks 73.6%. Economic hardship is prevalent in the area and often results in limited opportunities for children to experience art education outside of the classroom.

According to the Early Childhood Commission, "Art education helps to reduce stress among the economically disadvantaged." Studies also confirm that, "The arts build children's self-esteem by giving them the autonomy to express themselves." Other studies also verify that "the arts have been found to be effective tools for mindfulness, a trending practice in schools that is effective for managing mental health." Students' mental health is an extremely serious issue and is at the forefront of our concerns. DCAA believes providing art to each student in the District's elementary schools is a documented method to promoting healthy minds and a positive learning environment.

Art education achieves many positive outcomes for children. A Michigan State University study cites several:

- **Fine motor skills.** Grasping pencils, crayons, chalk, and paintbrushes helps children develop their fine motor muscles. This development will help your child with writing, other tasks that require controlled movements.
- **Cognitive development.** Art can help children learn and practice skills like patterning and cause and effect. They can also practice critical thinking skills by making a mental plan or picture of what they intend to create and following through on their plan.

- **Math skills.** Children can learn, create, and begin to understand concepts like size, shape, making comparisons, counting and spatial reasoning.
- **Language skills.** As children describe and share their artwork, as well as their process, they develop language skills.

According to Dr. Charan Cline, Redmond School District Superintendent, *“Annual survey data from our families, students, and teachers consistently confirms that our stakeholders value well-rounded learning experiences which include visual, and performing arts, music, and career-technical education.”* Through **Jumpstart Art**, DCAA is determined to provide the means for students to receive art learning required to round out their education.

The Dry Canyon Arts Association began in 2004 as the High Desert Society of the Arts. Years later the name was changed to Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA) and we obtained official Non-Profit 501c3 status. In January of 2024, DCAA was added to the list of approved charities of the Oregon Cultural Trust. Our mission is to encourage access to art in Central Oregon by providing opportunities for all ages to experience and appreciate all forms of art. We support our local artists and provide opportunities for them to exhibit and sell their work. We also strive to increase art education in the greater Redmond community specifically focusing on schools. DCAA accomplishes this by offering a variety of programs. We coordinate First Friday Art Walks and Lend Me Your Walls programs that allow artists to display and sell their art in various locations throughout Redmond. Twice a year we sponsor a two-day show allowing artists to the opportunity to display and sell their art. We also work closely with our local high schools to encourage art students to participate. High school artists are not charged the show fee nor are commissions taken from the sale of their artwork.

DCAA is working with the Redmond School District through funding art education pilot projects at three elementary schools. The funding is raised from members’ art raffled at the bi-annual art shows, the DCAA Education budget, and a combination of grants from the Deschutes Cultural Coalition, the Oregon Community Foundation and the Deschutes County Small Arts and Culture program.

- In 2023 we funded Hugh Hartman Elementary School \$3000 for art education. The school contracted with a local artist who visited nine classrooms providing three art lessons in each. The project served 186 students and nine classroom teachers. The grant provided these teachers with three hours of professional art development. Teachers were able to see what it can look like, and sound like to teach art with their own students in their classrooms. The principal reported, “Joy and success from students. All students found success; even students who have behavioral, academic, and social challenges.”
- In January of 2024 DCAA provided \$3000 to fund the ART portion of a STEAM project at the M.A. Lynch Elementary School. This was a unique and exciting project for the

**Dry Canyon Art Association is a 501c3 charitable organization listed with the Oregon Cultural Trust Federal EIN# 20-1326201 Oregon State Registry # 22907-90 [www.drycanyonarts.org](http://www.drycanyonarts.org)**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Although we are waiting for the final report on this project, we are certain it was a great success.

- DCAA provided \$2500 from a Deschutes Cultural Coalition grant, combined with \$500 from the DCAA Education Fund. It was given to Vern Patrick Elementary School for an art program that will begin in April 2024.

DCAA believes that each of these pilot programs will illustrate how working with the Redmond School District through funding in-class art education at elementary schools will benefit all participating students and teachers. Programs can be successfully provided by employing artists through the Arts for Learning organization or other local artists who do Artist-in-Residence programs.

**Jumpstart Art** will fund art classes in each of the Redmond School District's eight elementary schools. Three to five classes focusing on visual arts with a three to six week duration, will be provided through an Artist-in-Residence program. Local artists will be contracted by the individual school through the Arts for Learning Program or other local Artist-in-Residence programs. The program will culminate in some type of display/celebration of the artwork. What an amazing benefit for our youth and community.

**Jumpstart Art** will begin in the fall of the 2024-2025 school year and beyond.

The cost is estimated to be \$80,000/year, \$26.66 per student for the entire series of classes.

The funds will be provided to the Redmond School District to distribute to the schools based on the number of students (smaller schools receive less than \$10,000 and larger schools and schools with higher poverty schools receive over \$10,000) The funds will pay for the contract services with local artists and for supplies.

#### **Funding Strategy:**

DCAA is seeking a funding source or combination of sources who are willing to support visual art education for the eight elementary schools in the Redmond School District. Single year funding is a great start however, ideally a 3 year commitment would ensure longer term stability.

DCAA believes the success and the very low per student cost will prove that this is a very necessary and worthy program. Art education for our elementary students benefits the entire school and community. We expect to continue to fund the program through our DCAA Education budget, grants, donations, and sponsors.