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No School on Friday?

Come to the Arts Center for quality arts education

(PUEBLO, Colo.) - The Sangre de Cristo Arts Center is expanding its Young at Art Afterschool program this fall to an all day Friday Arts Academy. Through a partnership with District 70, the education department at the Arts Center will offer all day arts education classes for 1st-8th graders.

District 70 worked with the Arts Center's education department to offer a solution to the four day school week effective this fall. The Arts Center, already having an after school arts program on Fridays and full-day 8 week summer camps, decided to expand the class offerings to an all day option on Fridays. "We have a passion to allow students to experience all of the arts and this is our response to the four day week and the declining arts in schools," said Gary Holder, Curator of Education at the Arts Center.

District 70 teachers were asked for input regarding class offerings and given the opportunity to teach classes in the Friday Arts Academy alongside artists. District 70 superintendent Dr. Dan Lere requested a list of possible classes to provide the students to review and offer feedback. A complete 14 week semester course schedule will be developed based on student feedback.

"The Friday Arts Academy will benefit our students in at least two ways. First, it will give our students a productive activity on the Fridays when school is not in session, and second, and more importantly, it will expose our students to all forms of the arts that they might not have the opportunity to do otherwise. Thank you Sangre de Cristo Arts Center!" said Superintendent of District 70 Dr. Daniel Lere.

Friday Arts Academy classes are offered from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with morning and afternoon sessions. The Young at Art Afterschool program will still be available from 1:30-5p.m. welcoming students from all Pueblo city, county, home and private schools. Scheduling will take place at both District 70 and the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center before the end of the school year. Tuition is \$80 per class per 14 week semester with a nominal art materials fee. Arts Center members save 10%. Students may take up to seven classes. Tuition is comparative to average child care rates. For more information please contact Gary Holder, Curator of Education at 719-295-7210.

The cultural hub of Southern Colorado, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center gives visitors the tools to think and act creatively through a three building complex including seven galleries offering the best in historic and contemporary art by artists of local, regional and national renown. In addition the Arts Center offers the Buell Children's Museum, recognized as the second-best for art by Child magazine, a 500-seat theater featuring a variety of performing arts programs, both local and national, and two gift shops. Over 100 fine arts, dance and leisure classes are available every quarter providing something unique to everyone from children to adults of all skill levels.

Admission to the Arts Center is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children and military. Members of the Arts Center receive free admission. Galleries and Buell Children's Museum are open Tuesday-Saturday 11a.m.-4p.m.; closed Mondays. Box office open Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-5p.m. and Saturday, 9a.m.-4p.m. For more information, please call 719-295-7200; stop by the Arts Center located at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., just off of I-25, exit 98b, or visit online at www.sangredecristoarts.org.

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