

Chippewa Valley to host Festival of the Arts

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By Nicole Tuttle
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Fox Elementary School in Macomb Township displayed the artwork of its students during the 2014 Chippewa Valley Schools Festival of the Arts at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library Main Branch. This year the festival will be held April 28 to May 7. (Photos by NICOLE TUTTLE)

A colorful kaleidoscope of music, art and literature will all converge in one festival in one location April 28 to May 7, when Chippewa Valley Schools hosts its 2015 Festival of the Arts at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library Main Branch.

While browsing the Clinton Township library's selection of books and other materials, patrons will also be able to see student artwork from each school in the Chippewa Valley School District. Art display hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

"It is a great way to showcase the kids' talents and a payoff for the teachers' hard work," said Sue Casteel, an organizer of the event and a band teacher at Algonquin Middle School in Clinton Township.

Although every school gets the same number of panels for 2D art display, the number of pieces per school depends on the art teacher and the size and type of project that the teacher chooses to display, said Casteel.

"Each school art teacher is responsible for having their own school's stuff...Because this is the fourth year, they have a good idea of what will fit and how many will fit," she said. "Some use the crossbars on the displays to hang stuff."

Display space for 3D artwork such as jewelry or sculpture is limited due to space in showcases at the library, said Casteel.

High school and elementary school artwork will be displayed on the library's first floor, and middle school artwork will be displayed on the second floor.

"There is a wide variety of types of artwork. It is fascinating to me to see the progression and quality and types of work, the mediums they are working with. It is always very fascinating to watch the progress," Casteel said.

Musical performances will be held on April 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., April 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and May 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The May 5 date has been slated for middle and high school performances, and the April 28 and April 30 dates will be reserved for elementary school performances. Casteel said the district is in the process of finalizing which schools will have musical groups participating.

She added that the district is currently forming a plan to potentially offer free busing to senior citizens from area senior living facilities to view the middle and high school performances.

"We are in the process of finishing that up and finalizing it and solidifying it," Casteel said. "This year we are doing something different at the secondary level."

Jazz bands and ensembles as well as vocal groups are usually selected for the musical performances, as opposed to large bands due to space in the library's auditorium, she noted.

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