

Festival of Arts arrives at Chippewa Valley Tuesday



Chippewa Valley Schools Festival of the Arts will be held May 1 to May 10 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library Main Library. Pictured are Dakota High School students Abby Trozak, Lana Fakhouri and an unidentified student displaying their artwork. Photo courtesy of CYNTHIA HELVEY

By Nicole Tuttle , For The Macomb Daily

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The Clinton-Macomb Public Library Main Library will host the Chippewa Valley Schools Festival of the Arts May 1 to May 10. Pictured is Dakota High School student Alexis Jeffries, displaying some of her artwork. Photo courtesy of CYNTHIA HELVEY

Student artists and musicians from Chippewa Valley Schools will share their talent with the community beginning Tuesday through May 10 when the Festival of the Arts arrives at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library Main Library.

The show brings the community and the school district together in unique ways, including offering senior citizen bussing to musical performances according to art show organizer and Algonquin Middle School band teacher Suzan Casteel.

Chippewa Valley Schools Festival of the Arts will include art on display to coincide with library hours, which are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The Clinton-Macomb Public Library Main Library is located at 40900 Romeo Plank in Clinton Township. Student musical performances will be held on May 3 and May 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. both days.

Hosting the festival at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library (CMPL) to share student artwork with the community is a tradition for the school district that dates back about seven years, according to Casteel.

“It was seven years ago that we were looking for a venue. We wanted to start the festival again. When the district used to have it, it was a big celebration of fine art and we felt it was time to start doing it again,” Casteel said. “On a whim I stopped at the library, it is such a gorgeous facility...I struck up a conversation with, I believe, Jamie Morris (CMPL head of community relations, marketing and development) at the time, and we got to talking about the beauty of the facility and where we could put the artwork, and this is how it ended up there. It’s a great place for the entire community and it’s at the heart of Chippewa Valley...”

Two dimensional and three dimensional art from more than 18 schools in the district will be on display, grades K-12. Casteel estimated between 600 and 800 art projects will be on display. Middle school art will be displayed on the library’s second floor. High school and elementary school art will be displayed on the library’s first floor. Art will be displayed in alphabetical order by school, according to Casteel. The show does not include judging, and the art that is included is selected by teachers at each school.

Musical performances on May 3 will include the Cheyenne Elementary School Recorder Club, Mohawk Elementary School singers, Fox Elementary School second grade singers and ukulele players, and choirs from Huron Elementary School. On May 8, musical performances will include the Algonquin Middle School seventh grade choir, the Iroquois Middle School solo and ensemble groups and the Algonquin Middle School jazz band.

As part of the efforts for community inclusion in the festival, the district is offering to bus senior citizens from local senior housing complexes in the area to the musical performances on May 8.

“We hope our entire school community will come out to enjoy this wonderful art show. We are pleased to have our talented students there to present their musical performances. They always do such a great job. They are amazing. If any senior housing complex or center would like to organize a group of residents to come to the show, we encourage them to contact our community relations department at 586-723-2240 and we will be happy to make arrangements for them,” Chippewa Valley Schools Director of School and Community Relations Diane Blain said.