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## **Fall Friday Arts Academy Starts October 2 Economical way to Engage in the Arts for Students K-12**

**(Pueblo, CO, Sept. 23, 2020)** During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center offers classes in a variety of disciplines in a safe, controlled environment. Courses are designed for grades 1 – 12 and begin Friday, October 2, 2020.

Designed especially for District 70 and District 60 and private and homeschooled students, children have a chance to explore many arts not offered in school. Hour-long classes begin at 9:00 a.m. (with student drop-off available starting at 8:45 a.m. Classes conclude at 5 p.m., with pick up until 5:15 p.m. A supervised lunch period is available (must bring your own lunch). Classes are subject to enrollment numbers (maximum is 9 students per class).

Especially for kids that are in school virtually, this is a great way to connect in-person with an instructor and other students in a responsible, socially distanced area. Courses include cartooning, mural painting, acting, computer animation, creative dance, fiber arts, photography, clay hand-building, violin, and theater prop making. Other classes will be added depending on teacher availability.

Chelsea Johnson, Director of Learning, says “There is much evidence suggesting that students that participate in arts education programming are more successful in their academic endeavors. But did you know that students that have high levels of participation in arts education score an average of over 150 points higher on the SAT, have a five times lower drop out rate and are twice as likely to graduate college as their peers with no arts education? It is also important to note that Forbes magazine listed creativity, adaptability, cultural awareness, and critical thinking as top qualities for future employment... all of which are standards in high-quality arts programming like the courses offered at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center.”

Arts Center members receive a 10% discount! To register call 719-295-7200, or online at [sd-arts.org](http://sd-arts.org). Masks will be required for all students and teachers.

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### ***About the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center:***

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. 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 quarterly providing unique offerings to everyone from children to adults of all skill levels. Admission to the Arts Center is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children, seniors 65+, and military. 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.sdc-arts.org](http://www.sdc-arts.org).

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