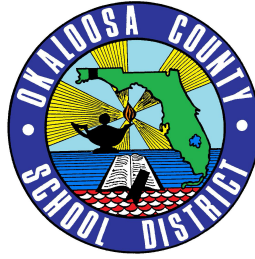


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 28, 2026

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Okaloosa County School District and Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation Celebrate Student Talent at 2026 K-12 Art Show

The Okaloosa County School District, in partnership with the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation, hosted the 2026 K-12 Student Art Show on April 22–23 at the Destin Fort Walton Beach Rigdon Center. The annual event showcased more than 2,000 student artworks from over 14 elementary schools and 15 secondary schools across the county. The free public event welcomed families, educators, and community members to celebrate the creativity and achievement of Okaloosa’s student artists. A special evening reception on April 23 featured live music from the Choctawhatchee High School Jazz Band and the presentation of Best of Show and Superlative Awards recognizing outstanding student work.

Superintendent Marcus Chambers shared, “Our students continue to inspire us with their creativity and vision. This art show reflects not only their artistic talent, but also the strong support of our teachers, families, and schools who help them grow and thrive.” Now in its 26th year, the partnership continues to highlight the importance of arts education and student expression.

2026 Best of Show & Superlative Winners:

- Middle School 2D Best of Show – Hannah Leitheiser, Liza Jackson Preparatory School
- Middle School 3D Best of Show – Olivia McClain, Lewis School
- High School 2D Best of Show – Addie Kelly, Destin High School
- High School 3D Best of Show – Sofia Perez, Crestview High School
- 2D Superlative – Ellie Aldrich, Niceville High School
- 3D Superlative – Lucia Schrand, Destin High School



(From L to R: Ms. Kim Moran (Fort Walton Beach High School Art Teacher, Hannah Leitheiser, Olivia McClain, Addie Kelly, Sofia Perez, Ellie Aldrich, Lucia Schrand, and Superintendent Marcus Chambers)

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