Have you ever heard the tune “It’s the most beautiful time of the year” in August and then realized it’s a parent singing about their kids returning to school? Yes, it’s that time of year again - Back to School!

It’s also the time of year when the Arts Council begins providing visual and performing arts classes for more than 25,000 students in Monterey County. However, there are approximately 75,000 K-12 students in Monterey County and our goal is to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality visual and performing arts education, and we need your help.

Research has shown the overwhelming benefits of arts education on the entire school culture—especially student motivation, attitudes, and attendance. And yet, despite the overwhelming benefits of arts education, not every student has access to engaging standards-based arts experiences.

Whether you are a parent yourself or just truly understand that local children are the future of Monterey County, there has never been a more important time to make a lasting impact on our students.

In the words of a Marina Youth Arts student: “On days when you put a lot of effort into your art, it can be a lot of fun. It also builds a community of friends and family that you get to work with and grow closer to.”

The arts play a crucial role for students and educators, especially in addressing healing and trauma.

Please, make a gift now to share your support with a local student.

Give the Gift of Art