

Chautauqua Arts Education

2026–2027

Chautauqua Arts Education programs serve thousands of pre-K through 12th grade students in Chautauqua County and beyond, encouraging creativity and self-expression through the performing and visual arts. These enriching experiences offer opportunities to develop artistic skills while learning about the world through the arts. Find out more at artsed.chq.org.

Designed to be inclusive and accessible to students of all ability levels, Chautauqua Arts Education integrates adaptations and accommodations into each program to encourage all students to have meaningful experiences through the arts.

Programs marked with an asterisk below (*) may be funded in Chautauqua County in part through the Erie 2 BOCES Arts in Education Co-Ser. For details about fee structure and program availability, contact Suzanne Fassett-Wright at sfassettwright@chq.org.

FOR STUDENTS

School Residencies*

Developmental level: pre-K–12

"Feelin' the Beat" integrates social emotional and music learning through drumming. This program is presented in two 10-week residency cycles, where classes receive weekly 30-minute sessions that develop students' musical expression and important social skills such as impulse control, staying on task, collaboration and identifying and expressing emotions through music.



CI Resident Teaching Artist Emma Minardi-Lopez with a student from Little Seeds – Sinclairville Preschool.

Young Playwrights Project*

Grades 3–4

This three-phase project brings actors and teaching artists to schools to teach the art of playwriting. This program encourages students to use their imagination and tell their unique stories, centering their creative expression as they develop writing and theatrical arts skills. Students will write plays, hear their plays read and acted out, and see selected plays performed live at Chautauqua Institution.



YPP Lead Teaching Artist Alex Nader interviewing a Young Playwright at Hewes BOCES Educational Center.

"The drumming residency had a meaningful impact on our students, particularly in supporting social emotional learning. We valued how the program leaders took the time to build relationships and get to know our students, making the experience engaging and accessible for all learners. We also observed strong carryover of these skills throughout the school day, including self-regulation, engagement and peer interaction."

—Molly Brockman,
LoGuidice BOCES Educational Center

"It is so much fun to see each student's face as their play is read, and how they just glow when the class cheers for them at the end. Even students who don't like to write enjoy this program due to how fun the actors make the assembly and class lessons. It was really nice this year to see some of my students that have difficulty focusing really get engaged during the lessons."

—Grace Odell,
Clymer Central Schools

Opera in the Schools*

Grades K–6

Students get up-close and personal with professional opera singers selected by Chautauqua Opera Company as they sing and make music with students through an in-class lesson for fourth grade classrooms and a performance of a kid-friendly, 45-minute opera for the entire student body.

"The students loved this performance. Bringing the performers into the school makes accessing the arts possible. So many of my students were using expanded vocabulary after the performance to talk about music and singing."

*—Elizabeth Johnson,
Ring Elementary, Jamestown Public Schools*



Rosamund Dyer, Lindsey Weissman and Gabriel Chona Rueda sing to students at Temple Elementary in the Falconer Central Schools.

Summer Field Trips*

Chautauqua Arts Education invites groups from summer camps and summer school programs to visit Chautauqua Institution during the Summer Season for a custom-designed experience. Arts Education staff will work with your group to suggest a day's activities that fit your schedule, the age and interest of your students. Activities may include:

- Observing a Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra rehearsal
- Seeing a Chautauqua Theater Company or Chautauqua Opera Company performance (high school only)
- Visiting the Chautauqua Visual Arts galleries
- Drumming by the Miller Bell Tower
- Swimming at Children's Beach or Pier Beach
- Ice cream at Brick Walk Cafe
- Taking a visual scavenger hunt walk around the grounds of Chautauqua Institution

And more!

For more information, contact Suzanne Fassett-Wright at sfassettwright@chq.org.



Summer Field Trip students from the Jamestown Summer LEAP program show off the backdrop they created in front of McKnight Hall.

FOR TEACHERS



Workshop leader Cheryl Mertz works with teachers in Jamestown, presenting "5-4-3-2-1 Freeze"

Professional Development for Teachers

Chautauqua Institution, in partnership with Chautauqua Lake Central School and Jamestown Public Schools present professional development workshops in Arts Integration. These offerings feature arts integration experts sharing their ideas with educators to put into use in their classrooms. The teaching strategies introduced integrate the performing and visual arts with other core areas such as reading, math, social studies and science. Participating educators receive professional development credit towards their certification goals, as approved by their district.