

# 2026 Student Art Showcase – Teacher Information (K–12)

## Overview

Tift County Schools, in partnership with Tifton Council for the Arts, invites all K–12 teachers to support student participation in the 2026 Student Art Showcase & TCS Art Competition. This district-wide initiative celebrates student voice through self-portrait artwork that reflects identity, culture, interests, and personal perspective. Selected student works will be exhibited publicly during Youth Art Month.

## Student Prompt

Who Are You? Students will create a self-portrait that shows who they are, inside and out. Artwork may be realistic, symbolic, imaginative, or abstract. Encourage students to think about:

- What makes them unique
- Their interests, culture, family, or community
- Emotions, values, or experiences that shape them

Suggested framing for students:

“Your artwork should help someone understand who you are without using words.”

Teachers may adapt language and depth based on grade level.

## Suggested Themes

Teachers may introduce one or more of the following themes as inspiration, not requirements:

- *Where I Belong*
- *Pieces of Me*
- *In My Element*
- *My Roots*
- *My Shadow Tells the Story*

Students are free to interpret themes creatively.

## Grade-Level Artwork Requirements

- Grades K–5: 8 x 10 paper
- Grades 6–12: 11 x 14 paper

## Approved Art Materials

Students may use any 2D media, including but not limited to:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Pencils or charcoal
- Oil pastels
- Pens
- Mixed media combinations

There is no single correct style.

## Required Student Information

Each artwork must include a completed Student Information Form, attached with a paper clip only (no glue or tape):

- Student name
- Grade
- School
- Title of artwork

## Timeline & Key Dates

- Artwork Creation Window: January 12 – February 12, 2026
- Student Entries Due: February 12, 2026 to the school's front office.
- Artwork Delivered to AO: February 12, 2026
- Judging: February 19, 2026
- Exhibit Dates: March 7–13, 2026
- Reception at the Syd Blackmaer Arts Center: Sunday, March 8, 2026 | 3:00–5:00 PM
- Exhibit Address: 225 Love Ave, Tifton GA 31794
- Exhibit Hours: 12:00–6:00 PM

## **Additional Information: Community Craft Night**

Tifton Council for the Arts will host a **Community Craft Night** for students who would like extra time and support to work on their self-portrait artwork.

**Date:** January 17, 2026

**Time:** 5:30–7:30 PM

**Location:** Syd Blackmarr Arts Center

**Address:** 225 Love Ave, Tifton, GA 31794

This event is **free and open to all students**. Art supplies such as markers, crayons, and other materials will be provided. Students are welcome to bring their own ideas or partially completed work.

Selected artwork will be displayed at:

- Syd Blackmarr Arts Center (Youth Art Month)
- Tift County Schools Administration Building (remainder of school year)

## **Teacher Role & Support**

Teachers are encouraged to:

- Introduce self-portrait concepts using the provided presentation
- Support creative risk-taking and personal expression
- Ensure size, paper, and form requirements are met
- Submit completed artwork by the deadline

Teachers do not need to pre-select winners—all submitted entries will be judged by the competition committee.

## **Questions or Support**

For questions regarding materials, submission, or timelines, please contact Aida Ayala at [aida.ayala@tiftschools.com](mailto:aida.ayala@tiftschools.com)

Thank you for supporting student creativity and helping showcase the diverse voices of Tift County Schools!