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 Blackmaar 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

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