

news galleryweek

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Deadline extended for schools to participate in 2024 Young People's Concerts



The deadline for Tulare County schools to participate in the new Link Up curriculum, which has been added to the long-running Young People's Concerts (YPC), has been extended to September 15. Link Up is a program of Carnegie Hall/Weill Music Institute. Carnegie Hall's Link Up program introduces elementary students (grades 3-5) to the orchestra through an interactive music curriculum in which they learn to sing and play the recorder in the classroom. The culminating event for Link Up is two live student performances with the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra on May 20, 2024 at the Visalia Fox Theatre. The Carnegie Hall/Weill Music Institute is working with 112 education entities in 39 states and 10 countries around the world.

Teachers of students in grades 3-5 who are interested in participating in YPC, utilizing the Link Up curriculum, are encouraged to sign up at: <https://forms.gle/8NS7cCUbjchPNioj9>. Kate Stover, the Tulare County Office of

Education's arts curriculum specialist, will conduct a training for all registered schools later next month.

For more information on YPC, including a [video](#) on the Link Up program, visit tcoe.org/StudentEvents/YoungPeoplesConcerts. For additional information, contact Kate Stover at kate.stover@tcoe.org.

YPC is a partnership with the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra, which will be celebrating its 65th season next year. Since 1959, YPC has served to introduce elementary students to symphonic music and musical performance opportunities available to them in middle and high school.

School Safety Program to host two-day Student Threat Assessment Training



Joe Holifield of John Van Dreal Consulting will lead a two-day school threat assessment training for schools and districts next month. Hosted by the School Safety Program, the training will help attendees learn how to support students in their school or district who are exhibiting threatening behaviors. Attendees will also learn the warning signs and steps they can take to mitigate potentially dangerous behaviors.

The student threat assessment training will be held on September 19 and 20 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in Visalia. The cost of the training is \$125 per person. Registration is available at tulare.k12oms.org/147-238588. School administrators, school counselors, school-based mental health professionals, school nurses, and school resource officers are encouraged to attend.



Joe Holifield is a licensed clinical psychologist and school psychologist, and presently an associate of John Van Dreal Consulting, LLC, creating a partnership with Holifield Psychological Services, Inc. He is the current project director of the Behavioral Health Assessment and Response Project (B-HARP), a community-based threat assessment, field-based research project in San Luis Obispo County. To date, Holifield has received over \$2 million in state and federal grants to support threat assessment training and program development in two counties in California. He was an invited expert to testify in support of a proposed school threat assessment bill at a hearing of the California State Senate Education Committee.

With over 20 years of experience, Holifield has conducted behavioral threat assessments for many school districts, including being the lead psychologist for threat assessments for several districts. He has revised threat assessment procedures and board policies for several school districts. Early in his career, Holifield trained and worked as a psychologist in inpatient hospital settings, residential treatment centers, and therapeutic day treatment schools for children and adolescents. His behavioral consultation and treatment focused on developing supports to persons in various programs who evidence violent and aggressive behaviors either towards self or against others.

In 2018, Holifield researched threat assessment practices in California among agencies providing services to persons with developmental disabilities. Holifield and John Van Dreal have collaborated in field-based research examining Level 1 and Level 2 training outcomes and community engagement using the Salem-Keizer Threat Assessment System in two counties in California. Holifield has made numerous presentations, trainings, and workshops on the topic of threat assessment to law enforcement agencies, school districts, and mental health professionals. Holifield has presented threat assessment workshops at the California Association of Regional Center Agencies, California Association of School Psychologists, National Association of School Psychologists, and the Conference of the School Neuropsychologists Institute.

For more information on the training, contact Tony Cavanagh at tcavanag@tcoe.org.

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