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REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

John K. Jonak, Regional Superintendent

Kane County ROE's Student Photography Contest Returns September 14: Celebrating High School Talent Across 10 Weeks

Registration is open now to public, private, and homeschool high schools countywide



GENEVA, Ill. – The Kane County Student Photography Contest saw record engagement last year, with more than 2,700 photo submissions from 17 high schools representing all nine Kane County public school districts, along with Marmion Academy and Rosary College Prep.

The 2026 Kane County Student Photography Contest opens Monday, September 14 and runs through Monday, November 16. Teachers can register a class by emailing Kourtney Lipps, Communications and Marketing Coordinator at the Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE), at klipps@kaneroe.org.

"This contest is one of my favorite highlights of the school year because it places student expression front and center," said John K. Jonak, Kane County Regional Superintendent of Schools. "When our young artists look through the camera lens, they capture the story of Kane County — our communities, our culture, and our daily growth. It's an incredible platform that challenges students' creative thinking, and I can't wait to see the talent on display this fall."

A new theme lands every Monday — texture one week, architecture the next, school spirit in the final weeks. The ROE's Photography Review Committee reviews every submission and selects the top ten images to publish on the ROE website, in its newsletters, and on social media. One is named the week's winning photo, and that student receives an award.

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Teachers describe the weekly turnaround as the thing that sets it apart. "I am so happy that [the ROE offers] this opportunity for our students," one participating teacher wrote after the 2025 contest. "They really love it, and I love teaching photography to them each week with these themes in mind."

The contest is open to public, private, and homeschool high schools across Kane County. Winners are celebrated Thursday, December 10 at 6 p.m. at the annual Photography Contest Reception at Interiors for Business, Inc. in Batavia, where every featured photo will be on display.



2026 weekly themes

- Week 1 (September 14): Monochrome
- Week 2 (September 21): Portrait
- Week 3 (September 28): Texture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- Week 4 (October 5): Architecture
 - Week 5 (October 13): Close Up
 - Week 6 (October 19): Autumnal
 - Week 7 (October 26): Humor and Hijinks
 - Week 8 (November 2): Flora and Fauna
 - Week 9 (November 9): School Spirit
 - Week 10 (November 16): Artist's Choice

Full contest details are available at kaneroe.org/student-photography-contest.

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About the Kane County Regional Office of Education

The Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE) is one of 38 educational service agencies in Illinois. Located in Geneva, we serve 9,200 educators and 107,000 students across 524 square miles that span nine school districts across Kane County (U-46, Batavia 101, West Aurora 129, East Aurora 131, District 300, Central 301, Kaneland 302, St. Charles 303, and Geneva 304).

Our mission is to advocate for education, provide leadership, perform regulatory functions, and coordinate state and local services for educators, school districts, and the community.