

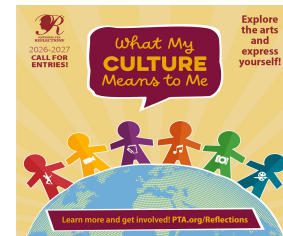


Jump Start Your Reflections Program!

California State PTA Reflections Committee

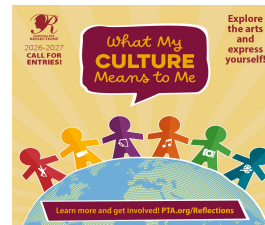


ReflectionsProgramCommittee@capta.org



About REFLECTIONS

- The National PTA Reflections Program was created in 1969 and more than 10 million students have participated.
- PTA REFLECTIONS is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home.
- PTA REFLECTIONS welcomes all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the Arts.



REFLECTIONS Promise



- help all students explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas
- develop artistic literacy, increase confidence
- find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and life.



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2026-2027 Theme:



Annual Theme Search



An annual theme is determined by the National PTA Reflections
Theme Search Contest.

This year's theme was selected 2 years ago.

The 2026-2027 Reflections theme is

What My Culture Means to Me

Submitted by Sophia Partola

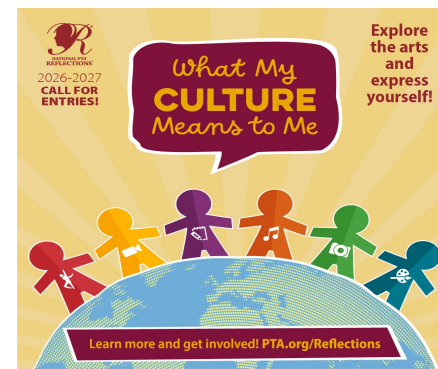
from Wilton High School PTSA in Connecticut.

National Reflections has suspended the Theme Search for one year, while they revise the program.



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Start with the Basics



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REFLECTIONS Art Categories

**Choose the
Arts
Categories
to offer at
your school**



Dance Choreography



Film Production



Literature



Music Composition



Photography



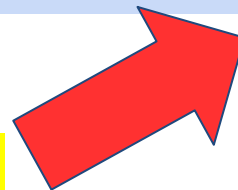
Visual Arts



REFLECTIONS Grade Divisions

- An Elementary school that is TK-6, can host Primary, Intermediate, Middle School and both Accessible Artist Divisions.

Primary Grades Pre-K to 2nd
Intermediate Grades 3rd to 5th
Middle School Grades 6th to 8th
High School Grades 9th to 12th
Accessible Artist Pre-K to 5th
Accessible Artist 6th to 12th

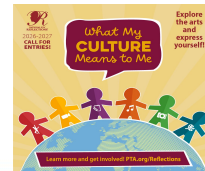


Now in two grade divisions!



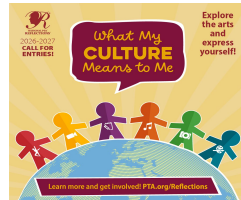
Accessible Artist Division Updates

- Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504.
- This decision is up to the student and their caretakers.
- Enter in the Accessible Arts Division or grade division most closely aligned to their support needs.
- Offers non-artistic accommodations (e.g. adaptive technology; transcribing) for students to participate fully.
- Assistants must refrain from being involved in the artistic process (e.g. developing an artist statement, choreography, music lyrics, storyboards, etc.)



Copyright & Technology Guidelines

- **Use of Copyright Materials:** copyrighted material in an entry must be **incidental** and/or is a **smaller element of a whole** and used to create a completely new and different work of art.
- **Use of Technology:** digital technology **may not provide the primary design** and/or concept for an entry. Entrants must provide a brief description of how they used the technology/software, including any generative elements (e.g., algorithmic techniques, artificial intelligence).





We Make it Easy for You

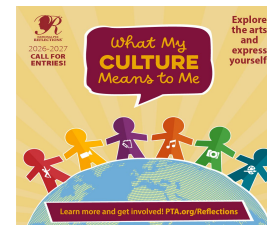
All REFLECTIONS materials are available on the [CAPTA.org](https://www.capta.org) website

Student Entry Packet

Art Category Guidelines

Reflections Review Packet

Promotional Graphics



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Information for Your Unit



- Virtual Form
- Student Entry Form (paper version)
- National PTA's [Start Your Program Site](#)
- National PTA's [Craft an Entry Site](#)
- Art Category Guidelines
- Reflections Review Packet
- Recommended Deadlines & YOUR Deadline!
- Promo Material Links



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JumpStart Your Program

1. Getting Started
2. Promote REFLECTIONS
3. Collect and Review Submissions
4. Celebrate and Recognize Participants
5. Wrap Up and Evaluate



Step 1. Start the Arts

- ☐ Register your PTA at [PTA.org/Reflections](https://pta.org/reflections).
- ☐ Confirm that your local PTA is in good standing with the state PTA and eligible to participate.
- ☐ Make sure the Reflections program is included in your PTA's program budget for the school year.
- ☐ Visit your state PTA website for program registration information and materials.

Step 2. Organize and Plan Your Program

- ☐ Recruit your committee/volunteers and engage school personnel and community members for additional support.
- ☐ Recruit creative professionals to judge student artwork.
- ☐ Determine which arts categories and grade divisions your PTA will offer. New program leaders may consider getting started with one or more arts category and division.
- ☐ Establish a timeline for the following activities.

Step 3. Promote Reflections

- ☐ Distribute program rules and student entry form.
- ☐ Promote artwork submission deadline and instructions.

Step 4. Organize Artwork for Judging

- ☐ Collect and organize artwork by category and division. Check entries for qualification.
- ☐ Facilitate judging and support judges as needed.
- ☐ Collect judges' scores and rank entries. Assign awards and prepare artwork for exhibition.

Step 5. Celebrate and Recognize Your Participants

- ☐ Announce awardees to the whole school community.
- ☐ Host a Reflections Celebration Event to showcase student work and distribute certificates/awards.
- ☐ Offer state and national opportunities for student recognition by sending your finalists to the next judging round. See State PTA's Leader Guide for details.

Step 6. Wrap Up

The PTA Reflections Leader Checklist will guide you step by step.

First step - Register with the National PTA REFLECTIONS Program - this is optional!





Propose the Program to the School PTA

Ask the PTA Executive Board

Create a Budget

Ask the Principal for permission and administrative support

Get Teacher involvement by working art into classroom curriculum (ie Literature, Art, Dance, Band)



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Suggested Due Dates



- State Due Date JANUARY 10, 2027 (FIXED)
- District Due Date DECEMBER 1ST (SUGGESTED)
- Council Due Date NOVEMBER 1ST (SUGGESTED)
- Unit Due Date OCTOBER 15TH (SUGGESTED)

***** Plan for 2-3 weeks before due dates for reviewing of each group to send to Council/District***



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Next Steps



Form a Committee-Recruit Volunteers

Recruit Community Arts Professionals as
Volunteers or Judges

Read the Checklist- Again!



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Promote REFLECTIONS

CREATIVE WORKSHOP
Let's inspire imagination together!

A complimentary after school creative workshop offered to our LWBE 2nd-5th grade students!

"Let Your Imagination FLY"

2nd & 3rd Graders
Thursday, Sept. 24th
LWBE Quest Room OP
2:50pm to 4:50pm
(Mrs. Scott's room)

4th & 5th Graders
Thursday, Oct. 1st
LWBE Quest Room OP
2:50pm to 4:50pm
(Mrs. Scott's room)

SIGN UPS begin Friday, September 11th @
please visit The Reflections tab
<http://lwbe.my-pta.org>

Maximum 25 students per session. Space available on first serve basis. Registration SIGN UP on the website
questions? contact us! lwbe.reflections.2016



EXPLORE the Arts!
PARTICIPATE in PTA Reflections



2016-2017
CALL FOR
ENTRIES!

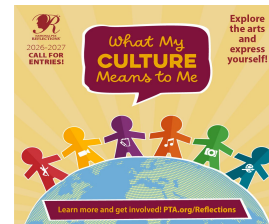
**What My
CULTURE
Means to Me**

Explore the arts and express yourself!

Learn more and get involved! PTA.org/Reflections

Promotion Ideas

- ★ Back To School - put out a table with Forms or QR code to Reflections
- ★ Host an Art Night
- ★ Set up a table at the first Association Meeting
- ★ Flyers with QR codes posted around campus
- ★ Ask art teachers to help promote in classrooms
- ★ Post on Parent Square or other social media
- ★ High Schools may have student socials to communicate



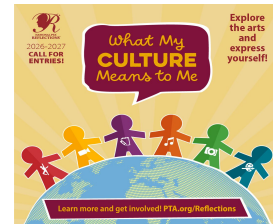
Use the Reflections Theme To promote Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- International Paper Craft Night
 - Cultural Dance Night
- Foods from Around the World





Administer the Program



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Local PTA Information			
LOCAL PTA			NATIONAL PTA ID
LOCAL PROGRAM CHAIR		EMAIL	

STUDENT NAME		GRADE	AGE
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S)		EMAIL	PHONE
MAILING ADDRESS		CITY	STATE ZIP

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules. Signatures (typed or handwritten) are required for all entries.

STUDENT SIGNATURE (Required for all entries)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (Required for all entries)

CATEGORY AND DIVISION (All entrants must select a grade-level division and arts category.)	GRADE DIVISION (Check one)	ARTS CATEGORY (Check one)
	☐ PRIMARY (PreK-Grade 2) ☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5) ☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8) ☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)	☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ☐ FILM PRODUCTION ☐ LITERATURE ☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION ☐ PHOTOGRAPHY ☐ VISUAL ARTS

ACCESSIBLE ARTS DIVISION PARTICIPATION

Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may also select to participate in the Accessible Arts Division to receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Participating students may use the "Additional Details" field to provide information about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (10 to 100 words, optional). Participating students compete against other students in the division and are awarded as part of the division. See division guidelines for details.

☐ I will participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

☐ I will NOT participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

ARTWORK DETAILS (As relevant or required based arts category and/or division)

Medium and Materials (Visual Arts)		Dimensions (Visual Arts/Photog.)	
Word		Editing software	

☐ I will participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

☐ I will NOT participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

TITLE (Required for all entries)

ARTIST STATEMENT (Required for all entries) In 10 to 100 words, describe your work and how it relates to the theme.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS If technology is used, describe the platform's use in the creation process, including any generative elements (required for all entries, 10 to 50 words). Students participating in the Accessible Arts Division may provide details about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (Optional, 10 to 100 words).

2026-2027 Reflections Student Entry Form - Formulario de Entrada de Datos

 .com [Switch account](#)

The name, email, and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form

* Indicates required question

Grade division

Making sure student understands accessible arts division and chooses correct age division.

Grade Division (choose one) - *División de Grado (Marcar solo una)* - Learn more about [Accessible Arts Here](#) - *Conozca más sobre [Artes Accesibles Aquí](#)* *

- ☒ Primary (Pre-K-Grade 2) - *Primaria (Pre-K - Grado 2)*
- ☐ Intermediate (Grades 3-5) - *Intermedia (Grados 3-5)*
- ☐ Middle School (Grades 6-8) - *Escuela Intermedia (Grados 6-8)*
- ☐ High School (Grades 9-12) - *Escuela Secundaria (Grados 9-12)*
- ☐ Accessible Arts Division (Pre-K-Grade 5) - *División de arte accesible (Pre-K - Grado 5)*
- ☐ Accessible Arts Division (Grade 6-Grade 12) - *División de arte accesible (Grados 6-12)*

Back

Next

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Clear form

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

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The student chooses one Grade Division button from the list, the Accessible Arts Division is part of the list.

Virtual Form

Caution!

Each Unit must
personalize this form -
please remind them!



August 26 7PM How to Use the Virtual Reflections Form

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8vW1uAk2SLG5kiUzEwcZJQ#/registration

September 15 7PM How to Judge Reflections Entries

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g1S2uhX0QQSFjQbTMRvmlA#/registration

Collecting Submissions

- As students send in submissions, check for completeness
 - Full name? Permission Signatures?
 - Artist Statement?
 - Title of the Piece?
 - Is the artwork accessible (shared with you if Virtual, or is physical artwork available?)
 - Meets the Guidelines for that Art Category?
 - Original artwork?
 - Created for this Reflection theme and year?



More on Submissions

- The Artwork must be created by ONE student (but others can appear)
- Students may submit entries in multiple Art Categories.
- Student may submit more than one entry in an Art Category (if the local Reflections Chair permits)
- No PowerPoint presentations!



Students can be disqualified if they don't meet all the requirements.



Look Closely!

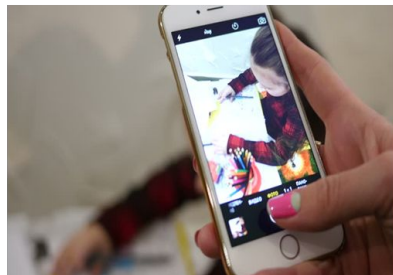
What meets the guidelines?



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Photography

A



B



Mom's
Hand

Which one can be submitted?

Any Category

A



B



Which one can be submitted?

Film Production

A

B

Dad's
hand



Which can be submitted? A or B? Or both?

Any Category

A



B



Which one can be submitted?

Music Composition

A - Musical Notation



B- Reflective Statement



Which should be submitted A or B?

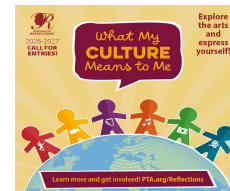
Middle and High School Divisions Vs Other Divisions

Musical Reflective Statement



A Reflective Statement would address questions such as the following:

- WHAT CREATIVE AND MUSICAL DECISIONS DID THE STUDENT MAKE TO ACHIEVE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE PIECE?
- HOW WERE THE MUSICAL ELEMENTS DEVELOPED?
- WHAT EQUIPMENT WAS USED (IF ANY)?
- WHAT SOUNDS AND/OR MUSICAL IDEAS WERE USED TO REPRESENT CERTAIN IDEAS OR EMOTIONS?
- HOW WERE THE STUDENT'S CREATIVE AND MUSICAL DECISIONS INFLUENCED BY THEIR EXPERTISE, CONTEXT, AND EXPRESSIVE INTENT?



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Literature

A



B



Which one can be submitted?

Visual Arts

A

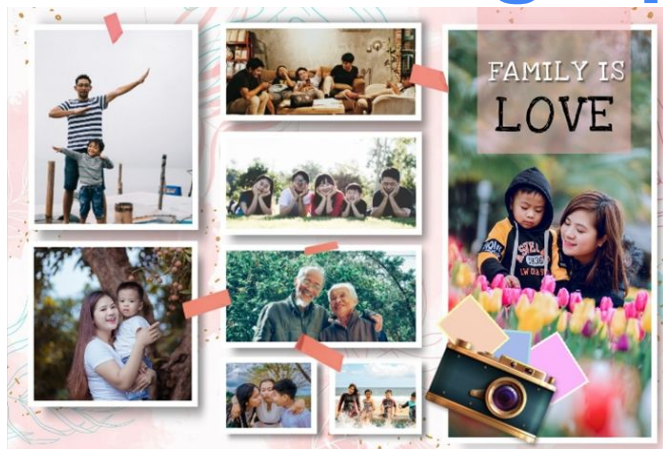


B



Which one can be submitted?

Visual Arts or Photography?



What art category is this?



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Dance Choreography & Film Production

A
MP4

B
MOV

C
AVI

Which one can be submitted?
A only, B only, C only or Any



Prepping Entries for Judges



- Blind Judging - the judge should not see the student name
- The judge should see:
 - The Artist Statement
 - The Title
 - Technical Details
 - The Artwork

September 30, 7PM Prepping Entries for Judging



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Reviewing Entries

- Chairs should not be a reviewer!
- **BLIND JUDGING** is required!
- Reviewers should focus on
 - A well-developed concept rather than technique
 - How the student uses artistic vision to portray theme
- Judges must see the artist's statement to make their decision

September 15 7PM [How to Judge Reflections Entries](#)



Judging

ORGANIZE ARTWORK FOR REVIEWING

1. CHECK-IN ENTRIES
2. REVIEW ARTWORK & ENTRY FORMS FOR QUALIFICATION
3. SORT BY CATEGORY & AGE DIVISION
4. PREPARE SCORECARDS
5. ASSIGN ENTRIES TO REVIEWERS

AWARD LEVELS

Award of Excellence, Award of Merit,
Honorable Mention & Participation

REVIEWING RUBRIC

Interpretation of Theme	How closely the artwork communicates the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement	40 pts
Artistic Merit/ Creativity	How creative and original the artwork is in its conception of the theme and its presentation	30 pts
Mastery of Medium	The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the artistic discipline	30 pts



PTA REFLECTIONS



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Common Reasons for Ineligibility

- Local PTA is not in good standing with the State PTA
- Submission prepared by more than one student
- Submission prepared by other than the student
- Submission entered in wrong category
- Submission entered in wrong division



PTA REFLECTIONS



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Celebrate and Recognize All Participants

Double Check spelling of names

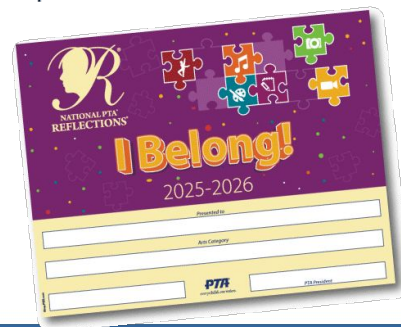
Plan a REFLECTIONS Celebration Event

Share the event on Social Media and will all families at your school, not just the participants



Present Certificate of Participation

ShopPTA.com



M O R R O W . T O G E T H E R .

Awards



Award of Excellence (1st Place)

Advances to the next level

Award of Merit (2nd Place)

Honorable Mention (3rd Place)

Participation Award

Check out the PTA Store for REFLECTIONS Awards & More!

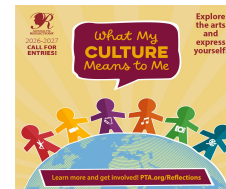
How Many Awards Are Given Out?



The number of Awards given out is decided by each PTA.

Typically, only the Award of Excellence in each Arts Category and Grade Division advances to the next level

Your Council and District should advise you - check with them to verify.



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Preparing Entries for the Next Level



- Check all paperwork & VIRTUAL forms carefully!
- Check that entry forms are complete and legible.
- Check that entries have a title and artist's statement. These are requirements!
- Check that your Local PTA info, Bylaws, Insurance, and Membership Info is accurate.
- Use only your PTA's full name and the National PTA ID
- Do you have copies of everything advancing to the next level?
- Were the entries carefully handled?
- An artist portfolio is strongly recommended for transport!



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Wrap Up and Evaluate



Submit the [Local PTA Unit Participation Online Form](#) when advancing artwork to Council or District

Send Thank You notes to school staff, community partners, PTA volunteers and judges

Evaluate your program, so next year can run smoothly

Return non-advancing artwork to the artists

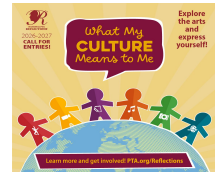
Create notes to help next year's REFLECTIONS Committee.



Who should I contact?



- **First** – your local school reflections chair or school PTA president
- When all else fails, then contact
- **CALIFORNIA STATE PTA REFLECTIONS CHAIR - DYING@CAPTA.ORG**
- **ReflectionsProgramCommittee@capta.org**



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Common REFLECTIONS Questions

- Is it ok to have paper forms instead of google forms?
- Can my IEP student submit entry in regular entry instead of accessible arts?
- One of my students wrote their name in the literature entry. Is it disqualified?
- One of my students used their name in the music/film production categories. Is the entry disqualified?
- How do I check if the student used AI?
- I think the art is too good to be done by a student. What do I do?

How Does My Unit Get Started?



- *Check out [CAPTA.org/Reflections](https://capta.org/reflections) to find materials:
 - Leader Checklist
 - Downloadable Media for printing or Social Media
- *Work with your Exec Board to create a budget & timeline
- *Recruit your Volunteers and Judges
- *Tell Everyone about REFLECTIONS!



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

ReflectionsProgramCommittee@CAPTA.org



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

