

Highlights to the 2008-2009 Rules

NEW THIS YEAR

- *All students must now describe what inspired their work & how it relates to the theme on the entry form.
- * VHS & cassette tapes will no longer be accepted.

Dance/ Choreography - must be the work of 1 student who can have up to 3 performers recorded on a DVD not to exceed 5 minutes.

Film/ Video Production- All aspects of the film must be done by 1 student recorded on a DVD not to exceed 5 minutes

Unit's Eight Digit National Number is REQUIRED on each official project form. *Your local PTA unit's number is located on any National PTA mailing label, above your PTA's President's name.* Example of a National PTA mailing is: *Our Children Magazine* (Same as 2006-2007) Dist. # refers to your Illinois PTA District numbered 2-37, not your school district.

Music Recording - Original music entries created by the student must be recorded on a "CD" not to exceed 5 minutes.

Music Entries - are to be submitted in a labeled 9 x 12 inch manila, clasped, unsealed envelope with the entry form taped to the back of the outside of the envelope (side with the flap) with tape on only the corners. A clean envelope is preferred since it will be on display.

NOTATION IS REQUIRED AT ALL AGE LEVELS.

Literature Entries - entries may be typed or hand-written in English on paper 8 ½ x 11 or less.

Visual Arts - Please note size - Art work can be up to 20 X 24 inches in size, or smaller.

Photography Entries – Size 11 x 14 or less including mounting or mat. Student must take photo.

National PTA selects Awards of Merit, Awards of Excellence and Outstanding Interpretation to help ensure that this is a creative arts program and **not a contest**.

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2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

LITERATURE Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

Description

- A literature entry may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.
- Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.
- *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. **Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe what inspired them to create this work & how it relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries.** Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child’s name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of literary genres, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

1. Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
2. Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.
3. Number all pages.
4. Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
5. Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Format

1. Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
2. Submit the original with the Student Entry Form attached to the back of the entry.
3. Do not mount entries.
4. Do not offer entries with printed text on both sides of the page.
5. Write the student’s name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.
6. Collections of poems or short stories are not acceptable. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.

Assistance

Dictation and typing:

1. Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
2. Students who are physically challenged or students in kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
3. Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

Translation:

1. Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own languages. **An interpretive translation must accompany the entry.**
2. Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

MUSICAL COMPOSITION Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Musical Composition Rules.

Description

A musical composition entry may be for voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed five minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. Students are strongly discouraged from submitting highly edited MIDI sequences or audio files. The recording submitted must capture performers in real-time. The entry may not include imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software.

Use of notation software for the purpose of creating scores and printed parts is permitted. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Musical composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe what inspired them to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

On the form, please answer the following:

1. Who performed your composition?
2. Did you use traditional instrumentation or a synthesizer?
3. If you used MIDI, what software and hardware did you use to compose your work?
4. If you included lyrics, how do they work with your composition

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of musical genres, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by his or her grade division:

1. Primary and Intermediate: No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.
2. Middle/Junior and Senior: Notation, either traditional, tablature, or electronic, is required. The notation should aid the listener and serve as a guide through the piece.
3. Adults may not assist. Physically challenged students may dictate to another person who may write the notation. The quality or accuracy of the notation and performance support the musical idea, but they are not considered judging criteria.

Format

1. Entries may not exceed five minutes.
2. Students are not required to perform their own compositions.
3. A student's composed work may be performed by a group.

4. Score size:
 - Entries should be no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches.
 - Band and orchestra compositions may be 11 inches by 16 inches.
 - Do not mount or bind the scores.

Recording Requirements

1. All grade divisions must submit a CD recording of the composition.
2. Submit the CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
3. Pack the CD with the score (if required) in a large envelope. Write the student's name on the back of each page of the score in case pages become separated.
4. Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

1. Make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close windows and turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
2. Don't record at too loud (in the red zone on the meter) or too soft (meter barely moving) a level.
3. Record a short test and listen to it while watching the meter. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
4. Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

Theme: “Wow!”

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY RULES

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules.

Description

- Dance choreography entries must be original choreographed dance composition works recorded on a DVD or CD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current Reflections Program theme.
- There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Costumes are not necessary. If costumes are used, however, the choreographer must also create the costumes or directly note that the costumes are not the original work of the student.
- Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique. Therefore, it is very important that the student show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. The connection should be made evident through the use of song, props, or the dance itself.

Originality

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.
- *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

- All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form.
- Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme.
- While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.
- Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).
- The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.
- State who performed the choreography .

Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of dance styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- All grade divisions must submit a DVD or CD of a performance of the choreography.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).
- The performance should directly relate to the theme.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - ✓ .MPG / .MPEG
 - ✓ .MOV / .QT (Quicktime Video)
 - ✓ WMV (Windows Media Video)
- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on the DVD/CD, not as a DVD/CD movie.
- Submit the DVD or CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the DVD/CD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Enclose the DVD/CD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

PHOTOGRAPHY Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Photography Rules.

Description

- A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or a group of images, produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.
- The entry may incorporate such techniques as montage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. Images should demonstrate the student's proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure. The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources. Photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not acceptable.
- Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. **Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe what inspired him/her to create this work and how it relates to the theme.** This is required for all grade divisions.

While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Give the dimensions of the piece and describe the process used in preparing the piece. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

Reflections entries that are selected to advance to the IL PTA will be part of an exhibit that will travel throughout the state until the next convention in 2010. They will then be returned to the District Director who in turn will be responsible for returning them to the school of origin. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Your artwork may also be chosen to participate in other shows or exhibits; if so, the national PTA office will contact you to inform you of the approximate date of the return of your artwork.

Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of photographic processes and treatments, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

1. A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
2. Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
3. Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
4. Attach the Student Entry Form to the back of the photograph using masking tape.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

VISUAL ARTS Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Visual Arts Rules.

Description

- A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the current Reflections Program theme.
- Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.
- *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

- All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form.
- Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe what inspired them to create this work and how it relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries and grade divisions.
- Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.
- Give the dimensions of the piece and describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.).
- Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

All artwork that is chosen to advance to the state level will automatically become part of the 2008-2009 Reflections Traveling Exhibit which travels throughout the state for one year. It will then be returned to the District Director at the following IL PTA Convention who in turn will return it to a representative from your school. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Your artwork may also be chosen to participate in other shows or exhibits; if so, the national PTA office will contact you to inform you of the approximate date of the return of your artwork. If your work is not chosen for additional display outside the online gallery, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of artistic media, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

1. All art must be flat and may not be more than 3/8 inch thick. This includes all two-dimensional materials and images, including small, flat items (such as string, fabric, and screening) that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image. Nothing three-dimensional (noodles, beans, beads, boxes, etc.) may extend off the surface of a work. Artwork on a stretched canvas frame will be disqualified.
2. No art may exceed 24 inches by 20 inches, including a mat.
3. Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
4. Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wooden, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
5. Protecting the work with transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended. **Do not** laminate the work.
6. Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the artwork

Works Not Accepted

- Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other three-dimensional artwork
- Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program

Theme: “Wow!”

FILM PRODUCTION RULES

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Film Production Rules.

Description

- A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.
- The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. If using a computer, the student must do all of the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. All storyboarding, editing, etc., must be done by the student.
- Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Categories

1. **Animation:** Animation may be drawn; created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc.; or computer-generated.
2. **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
3. **Documentary:** Nonfiction documentation using narration, facts, and images.
4. **Experimental:** Video that explores movement, light, and montage.
5. **Media presentations:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted.
6. **PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.** Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.

- *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

- All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form.
- Each participant is also **required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme.** While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries.
- Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.
- Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).
- The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.
- On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:
 1. Who appears in your film? (It is suggested that you gain parental consent for any minors who appear in your film.)
 2. Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware.

Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of film styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The film should directly relate to the theme.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the video.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 1. .MPG / .MPEG
 2. .MOV / .QT (Quicktime Video)
 3. .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- Entries should be submitted on CD or DVD. The entry should be saved as a file on the CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD or DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD/DVD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD/DVD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Think about sound. Use an extra microphone (boom mike) if needed. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).

RULES-IN-BRIEF

2008-2009 National PTA Reflections Program “Wow”

Categories

Literature: Must be handwritten or typed by the student on any paper not to exceed 8 1/2 x 11 inches in size. (Grade 1 and younger, and Special Education students may be assisted without altering child’s words.) Work must be no more than 2,000 words. Could be: poem, play, short story, essay, etc. *Literature projects may be in student’s native language but must be translated into English without altering the student’s expression.*

Musical Composition: Score with or without words on 8 ½ x 11” paper (11 x 17” paper for band or orchestra.) Notes on staff paper, purchased, hand drawn or computer generated. Music must be recorded on a CD & cannot exceed five (5) minutes in length. Grades 5 and younger may have help with music notation or submit iconic (made up) notation. Grades 6 and up must have music notation without help. Student does not have to play music for the recording but Must state who did on entry form.

Photography: Photography up to 11 x 14 inches (including mat) or smaller. Photography may be black and white or color. The student must snap the photograph using any still camera. A student may submit a photo, collage, retouched print, multiple exposure, etc.

Visual Arts: Artwork can be up to 20 x 24 inches in size, or smaller (Full size poster board is 22 x 28 – suggestion – cut 10” off the end and make the artwork 18 x 22). Completed project must be flat. Do not glue on anything that will not be completely flat on your paper. Could be: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, etc. Artwork on stretched canvas will be disqualified.

Dance/ Choreography: Entries must be recorded on DVD, not to exceed five (5) minutes. Choreography must be the work of one student who may or may not be one of a maximum of 3 performers. If costumes are used, the choreographer must create them as well.

Film/Video Production: Student must be the director, screenwriter and cameraperson. Can be fiction or nonfiction, with or without sound, animated or computer generated. All aspects of the film must be done by the student. Entries must be recorded on DVD and are limited to five (5) minutes.

General Rules

1. All projects must be the original work of **ONE student** Projects advancing to the next PTA level must have a signed statement of originality granting permission to the National PTA and Illinois PTA to use their work. Student and parent/guardian signatures must be included on each “Official Entry Form”
2. Each project **MUST** express the theme - “Wow”.
3. Work should be titled, or clearly express the theme.
4. Students are required to submit an artist statement to describe what inspired their work & how it relates to the theme.
5. Work should be neat. Keep work from becoming wrinkled or torn. A dictionary should be used. Grade appropriate grammar and spelling are required.
6. Projects must include student’s name, grade and class on the back of the project.
7. Three-dimensional art will **NOT** be accepted, only art on paper, poster board, material mounted on cardboard, or canvas on cardboard. **NO GLUED ON NOODLES, EYES, BEADS, etc.** Flat work only. Artwork on stretched canvas will be disqualified.
8. Students may enter more than once in each category.
9. All projects must be received on or before the end of school _____.

**State Rules are available to view in the school office.

Questions? Contact _____ at _____

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES
Theme: “WOW!”

Students must adhere to the following general participation rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

1. Theme

The theme for the 2008–2009 PTA Reflection Program is “Wow!” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.

2. Student Eligibility through Local PTAs

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with the national PTA organization are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine each student’s eligibility in the Reflections Program.

A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

3. Grade Divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: **preschool–grade 2, up to age 7**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5, ages 8–10**
- Middle/Junior: **grades 6–8, ages 11–13**
- Senior: **grades 9–12, ages 14+**

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

4. Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of the six arts areas:

- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts
- Dance choreography
- Film production

The Illinois PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit. All entries must include an artist statement that describes how the piece relates to the theme.

5. Children with Disabilities

PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program does not have a special division for students with disabilities. The PTA believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child’s developmental age.

6. Deadlines

Each student must submit his or her work by the deadline established by his or her local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the state, district, and council needs. These entries are judged, and the selected works are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, district, or state). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your Council or District PTA arts chair.

7. Judging

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in artwork. Students who are submitting entries need to meet school and/or local and state PTA standards. Judges review entries based upon creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme.

Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no conditions may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of an entry. All decisions of judges are final.

8. Award Recipient Notification

District Reflections Assistants will notify students who receive recognition at the IL PTA District level. The IL PTA Cultural Arts Chairman will notify students who receive recognition at the State level & will submit original literature, film & dance entries, digital photos of photography and visual arts pieces & copies of music entries to the national PTA organization for the creation of the Reflections Program Gallery on the PTA national website (www.pta.org).