PTA’s Mission

“To make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.”
National PTA Reflections Program

Four Facts About Reflections

1. Founded in 1969, PTA Reflections is known as our oldest and largest national student recognition program in the arts.
2. The program encourages children to reflect on a common theme and create original artwork in literature, visual and performing arts.
3. Each year, PTAs engage over 300,000 students and their families in Arts Education.
4. Participation in arts programs, like PTA Reflections, plays a critical role in students’ success by leveling playfields and developing students holistically. Moreover, PTA Reflections has been a valuable tool for strengthening school-community partnerships.

Show Your Voice
Local & Council Reflections Chair Duties

The PTA Reflections program is now offered via a digital format. The general tasks for local unit & council Reflections leaders include:

• Register your PTA’s participation in this year’s program with National PTA
• Distribute program materials
• Recruit volunteer judges – EARLY!!!
• Collect entries & coordinate judging
• Advance top entries to the next level of judging
• Celebrate & recognize students
The Reflections program theme is chosen each year from hundreds of suggestions submitted by students across the country. Students at schools with a PTA in Florida, even if the PTA does not participate in the Reflections program, can submit their suggested themes. Submit themes to Florida PTA by October 25. The Reflections Committee then selects the top 5 entries to be advanced to the National PTA.

One national winner is selected by the National PTA in February. The winning student receives a $100 award and national recognition.
This year’s theme is...

Show Your Voice
2022-23 Reflections Schedule & Deadlines

Local Units need to start their Reflections programs in September in order to “stay in sync” with the deadlines required for the various levels of judging.

Local Units:
Set your submission deadline in keeping with your County Council’s or Region Reps’ deadlines.

Sample Schedule
- Mid-October to mid-November – review entries and complete local judging
- Mid-November – Deadline to advance your winning entries to next level
  Units in a council advance to council Reflections chair. Units not in a council advance to Region Reflections chair

County Councils:
- Mid-December to mid-January – County & Region judging
- January 16, 2023 – Reflections due to the State PTA

State PTA:
- March 1, 2023 – Entries that won at state level must be uploaded to National PTA portal
- Early March – State winners announced – invited to state ceremony
- March 2023 - State ceremony - Exact Date To be Determined

National PTA:
- May 1 – National PTA Reflections winners announced
Step 1. Register, Connect, Recruit

- Register your PTA with National PTA Reflections program at PTA.org/Reflections.
- Make sure your PTA is registered as participating in Reflections with the state office.
- Visit the Reflections pages on the Florida PTA website to get all details for our program https://floridapta.org/reflections-art-program/
- Kick off your program by celebrating
  - National Arts and Humanities Month - October
- Recruit Volunteers for your Reflections Committee and delegate tasks:
  - Promote Program
  - Coordinate Judging
  - Host Celebration Events
Step 2. Customize and Distribute

You decide how you want to accept your entries. Dance, Music, & Film are always digital files.

Edit program materials to include

✔ Available arts categories for participation
✔ Program deadlines
✔ Directions for submitting entries

Distribute to program participants

✔ Student Entry Forms – online Google form or paper
✔ Rules & Instructions

Include additional details in the Student materials like:

• Contact information
• Submission instructions (e.g., physical vs. digital)
• Additional rules for student eligibility

Show Your Voice
Entry Form

Local Units MUST be in compliance in order to participate in Reflections.

Local unit Reflections chairs MUST complete ALL Fields in the PTA Box – ideally before copying!

Student Information

Student & Parent Signatures (electronic signatures ok)

Submission Category & Division

Title (REQUIRED) & Details of Submission

Artist Statement (REQUIRED)

Show Your Voice
Step 3. Coordinate Judging

Tap into the community around you when recruiting judges. Consider the following potential community members:

- Administrators: Consider having school or district administrators serve as judges to increase recognition of the program and the arts.
- Local art professionals like art teachers, artists or art businesses people will have connections and can serve as special “celebrity” judges
- Former judges and Reflections advocates. Using kept records from past program years, reach out to reengage or find new volunteers
- Students and arts professors from local colleges and universities. These individuals may be looking for ways to get involved in their community.
- Former state-level Reflections winners and recent graduates. These folks already know and love the program – recruit them and let them feel like experts themselves!
Arts Category & Grade Division Overview

Art Categories:
• Dance Choreography
• Film
• Literature
• Music Composition
• Photography
• Visual Arts

Grade Divisions:
Primary - Pre-K thru Grade 2
Intermediate – Grade 3 – 5
Middle School – Grade 6 – 8
High School – Grade 9 – 12

Key Points:
▪ All entries must be an original creation done by a single student for this year’s Reflections’ theme
▪ For photo and film entries, the student can be “in” the entry ONLY if a timer or tripod was used.

Show Your Voice
Dance Choreography

Solo and ensemble works of all dance styles are accepted. Entrant must be the choreographer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. If background music is used, cite it on the entry form.

VIDEO
- File must not exceed 5 minutes and 1000 MB in size
- Accepted formats: AVI and MP4

Show Your Voice
Accepted short film styles include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or media presentation. All screenwriting, directing and editing must be done by the student producer. If background music is used, cite it on the entry form.

**VIDEO**
- Video must not exceed 5 minutes
- File must not exceed 1000 MB in size
- Accepted formats: AVI and MP4
- Use of PowerPoint is prohibited
Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: Prose, poetry, reflective essay, screenplay, and play script, narrative, and short story. Entrants may write in their primary language if an interpretive English translation is also attached. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

WRITING
- Must not exceed 2,000 words
- Must include word count on application form
- May be handwritten or typed
- Single-sided print on 8 ½x11” paper
- PDF file
Music Composition

All music styles and combinations of instrumentation are accepted. Entrant must be the composer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

**AUDIO**

- File must not exceed 5 minutes and 1000 MB in size
- Accepted formats: MP3 and WAV

**NOTATION**

- Only required for middle and high school divisions
- In place of a notated score a written reflective statement that provides a musically technical explanation of how the piece was composed (100 words or less).
- Notation in PDF format

Show Your Voice
Photography

Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages & collections of photos are not accepted. Entrant must be the photographer & may use a variety of digital editing techniques including, but not limited to, multiple exposure, negative sandwich & photogram.

PRINT

• Must be no smaller than 5 x 7” & no larger than 8 x 10”
• Mounted on mat or poster board no larger than 11x14”
• Framed prints are not accepted
• Include one digital image of artwork with your submission (Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG)

DIGITAL IMAGE

• Dimensions must be at least 640x960 (pixels) and 300 dpi (resolution)
• Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG

Show Your Voice
Visual Arts

Works of both fine and design arts are accepted, including but not limited to: architectural drawing & models, ceramics, collage, computer generated images & graphics, crafts, drawing, fashion clothes & jewelry, fiber work, mixed media, painting, printmaking & sculpture.

2D WORKS
• Mounted on sturdy material
• No larger than 12” x 16” with matting
• Framed entries are not accepted
• Include one digital image of artwork with your submission (Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG)

3D WORKS
• No larger than 12” x 12” x 12”
• Include 3 digital images of artwork at different angles. (Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG)
Special Artist Division

This **Special Artist Division** welcomes students from all grades and offers non-artistic accommodations for students to participate fully in PTA Reflections.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Non-artistic accommodations (e.g. adaptive technology; transcribing; holding a camera)
- Assistants must refrain from being involved in the artistic process (e.g. developing an artist statement, choreography, music lyrics, storyboards, etc.)

**Students who identify as having a disability and receive services under IDEA, ADA, or have an IEP: Section 504 may enter in the Special Artist Division **OR** grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities.**
Step 4. Advancing & Celebrating Your Students

- Assign awards by art categories and grade division
- Advance finalists to the next level according to State PTA guidelines and deadlines
- Counties are to send their **top 3 entries** in each category/division to State
- Celebrate your students:
  - Announce winners on school websites and social media and tag:
    - @NationalPTA @FLPTA @FLPTAReflections
  - Offer awards from ShopPTA.com and donated prizes from community supporters
  - Host a student recognition event for families
  - Showcase student works at school and in the community
Don’t Forget to Wrap Up!

- Make sure to thank students and parent leaders, school personnel, Judges, and community businesses for their support
- Return non-advancing works and contact students who are advancing in the competition
- Host a debrief with your volunteers committee
- Record notes and contacts for next year’s Reflections Chair
And here’s validation for why we do what we do for REFLECTIONS!
Questions?

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(813) 943 – 9254

Programs Chair: Lisa Hoyland
programs@floridapta.org

https://floridapta.org/reflections-art-program/  Florida PTA Reflections FB Page

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