

## What is the Reflections Program?

The Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program. Students in preschool through grade 12 participate in the arts areas of literature, dance choreography, film production, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Age divisions are preschool through grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12.

The Reflections Program provides a venue for students to create and be recognized for original works of art based on a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Parents, teachers, and community members all play a critical role in fostering a positive learning environment for children. Supporting the Reflections Program is one way adults can help maintain that environment.

The Reflections Program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. The National PTA created this program in 1969 at the request of then Colorado PTA President Mary Lou Anderson. The program's longevity and participation statistics attest to its strength. This coming year will be the fortieth anniversary year for the Reflections Program. Let the excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools, and communities truly be unmatched.

The **goal of the Reflections Program is participation.** Although the program follows a judging format, winning should not be the emphasis. Arts in education/Reflection Chairmen should remember that all children are gifted and talented; The Reflections Program can give children who have never tried creating a work of art a chance to experiment and feel good about their work.

Ensuring that all participants are recognized, including those with artwork advancing to another level, can encourage future participation. Students see their peers enjoying the program and look forward to participating themselves.

Students must participate through an active PTA unit in good standing which means that dues are paid and bylaws are current. If in doubt check with the state Membership or Bylaws chairmen or your District Director. Entries received at the State Level are not eligible for State Reflections Awards if the submitting local unit is not in good standing. Virginia PTA Outstanding Interpretation entries advance to the National level.

For more information on the Reflections Program contact your school's Reflections Chairman or the Virginia Arts in Education Chairman Jane Brooks at (757) 425-1597) or email [artsineducation@vapta.org](mailto:artsineducation@vapta.org).

**Please refer to Reflections as a "self discovery learning program for children". Recognize and award them for their achievement in their art mediums.**