

Parent, Teacher, Student Packet

Reflections Program 2009-2010



“Beauty is...”

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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.

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



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

LOCAL, COUNCIL, AND DISTRICT/REGION PTA INFORMATION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Participation

What is the deadline for my unit? All local, council, and district/region deadlines must be set in accordance with established state deadlines. The national PTA office does not set, alter, or record local or state deadlines for the Reflections Program. Please contact your state PTA.

Who is eligible to participate? Participation in the Reflections Program is open to any student through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. It is the responsibility of the local unit to determine each student’s eligibility in the Reflections Program.

May students use a piece of artwork created for another arts competition? All entries into the Reflections Program must be new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year’s theme and created expressly for the program. Artwork produced before the dissemination of the theme or created and used for another competition or program may not be submitted.

May students participate through a local PTA not affiliated with their school? State PTAs may adopt their own policies regarding this situation. The national PTA organization requires only that national entries come from local PTAs/PTSAs in good standing.

May students no longer attending a PTA school still enter the Reflections Program through their former school? State PTAs establish their own policies regarding this situation. Since some states restrict this practice, please contact your state PTA about its participation policy.

May home-schooled students participate in the Reflections Program? State PTAs may adopt their own policies regarding this

situation. The national PTA organization requires only that national entries come from local PTAs/PTSAs in good standing.

Under what division should developmentally challenged students participate? PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the national level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. The national PTA organization 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. However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs may vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

May developmentally or physically challenged students receive help from a parent or teacher? In literature and musical composition, students who are physically challenged may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original literary work or musical notation. Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work. Any other rules or policies regarding developmentally or physically challenged students are left up to the discretion of each state PTA and may be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Arts Areas

Use of Copyrighted Material

May students use copyrighted material as a source for their artwork?

Use of copyrighted material is not acceptable in any submission, with the following exceptions:

Photographs, visual artworks, and films may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine clippings, Internet images, and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, *original* work of art on its own.

Dance choreography and film production entries may use copyrighted music. The title, composer, and performer of any music used must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form.

What should an arts chair do if it is discovered that a child has plagiarized an entry?

Unfortunately, plagiarism is not uncommon. Plagiarized entries should be disqualified and returned to the student. If a plagiarized entry has already received an award, the arts chair needs to determine if the award (including award money, pins, certificates, etc.) should be returned. The arts chair and local unit will need to work with the student and the student's

family to help the student understand the seriousness of copying someone else's work and claiming it as their own. School counselors or teachers might also be able to provide assistance in helping the student deal with the discovery and the consequences.

Dance Choreography

Does the choreographer (the student submitting the entry) have to be one of the performers?

The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate both creativity and interpretation of the theme. There may be up to three dancers. The choreographer need not be one of the dancers.

Can a martial arts, gymnastics, ice skating, or synchronized swimming performance be submitted as a dance choreography entry?

A dance choreography entry may employ any number of diverse forms of dance and/or inspiration from many areas, including sports. However, the primary choreography must utilize some of the core principles of dance. The entry submitted should not be a recording of a demonstration or routine used in a meet or competition for any sport.

How is traditional dance judged for originality and/or creativity?

The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or the significance of the choreography might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a dance choreography entry that involves traditional cultural or regional dances.

Film Production

Does the student submitting the entry have to appear in the film? The student must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. He or she does not have to appear in the film. If any minors appear in a film, the student submitting the entry should obtain the consent of the minors' parents/guardians. The names of any persons who appear in the film must be listed on the Student Entry Form.

Literature

May a student use unacceptable language in an entry? The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in the literature area. Students who are submitting entries created in a school setting should be mindful of school and/or local or state PTA standards for writing.

Judges should be reminded that entries are to be reviewed for **creativity, artistic merit, mastery of the medium, and interpretation of the theme.**

Musical Composition

May students use notation software for creating musical composition scores?

A student may use notation software. Imported MIDI files or files from other sources are not acceptable.

Photography and Visual Arts

May students submit computer-manipulated photos or visual arts pieces generated on a computer?

The use of digital manipulation in the areas of photography and visual arts should be noted on the Student Entry Form, along with the software used.

Display of Artworks

What student information can be displayed with artworks? When artwork is on display, label the back of the piece with only the student's name, school, and town. Do not have the Student Entry Form attached to the back of the artwork in a display setting. No one outside of PTA should have access to student information. Develop a system to easily match and reattach Student Entry Forms to artwork for returning to the student or sending on to the next judging level.

National Awards

How will I know if a child in my unit wins a national award?

The announcement of national Reflections Program award winners occurs in May each year. The national PTA office issues a press release and sends an e-mail to all state PTA offices and state arts chairs about the winners.

The states are responsible for notifying students and units of national awards, with the exception of the Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients. The national PTA office personally notifies the Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients.

When are the national awards mailed?

The national Reflections Program awards and certificates are mailed after the PTA National Convention, by the end of July.

PARENT, TEACHER INVOLVEMENT

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 Virginia PTA wants everyone to promote the Reflections Program as much as possible. This page shows how both teachers and parents and the PTA can use this program for maximum benefit to students.

1. Parents and teachers may distribute all of the rules and forms associated with Reflections.
2. They may elect to supply the child with the materials needed to complete an entry. They may assist by encouraging, setting up recording venues, preparing Student Entry Forms and preparing works for presentation. See each art area rules page (BELOW) for recording and presentation instructions.
3. They may collect the entries.
4. They may ANNOUNCE and discuss the theme; to encourage the child's own, unique interpretation of the theme. This 41st anniversary year 2009-2010 theme is "**Beauty is...**"
5. If a teacher elects to use the Reflections Program and/or its theme in their classroom as part of a creative writing lesson, they may do so after the student has placed his/her reflections entry in the PTA hands.
6. Both teachers and parents can and should copy the **original** work right before it is turned into the Reflections Program as an entry. This copy can then be graded, edited or handled by any means desired by the teacher and kept as a reminder to the child by the parents.
7. Parents or teachers who need to make translations or readable copies of student entries must not change any spellings or grammar used by the student. This is to protect the student's integrity in participation as outlined in the National PTA rules.
8. A student entry must be a student's own original work. The PTA Reflections Program is designed to show "...an individual's creativity..." All entries belong to the students who made them.
9. Parents, teachers, and mentors should be prepared to provide the child with time, space and some materials as expressed or shown by the child's unique interpretation and leadership. Ex. a camera or film, recording equipment and place, drawing paper, a location, etc.
10. Reflections should not be focused as an arts "competition". Rather, it should be a project for children to learn to express themselves, freely, individually and confidently, through various arts disciplines. Whether the child is "exploring" the art form or is an accomplished writer/musician/painter/etc., all entries are judged most critically in the interpretation of the theme. **This 41st year's anniversary theme is "Beauty is..."**
11. Creating art is a valuable learning process. Artistic exploration and expression enhance and develop intellectual, social, and technical skills. When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, photography, and other art forms, they grow intellectually. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings, and ideas; and learn to look at things, people, and experiences in a fresh and exciting way. Let's all work together to achieve this maximum benefit to the students.



National PTA Reflections Program

Theme Search for 2011–2012

National PTA is looking for a theme for its Reflections Program for 2011–2012. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2010 National PTA Convention (June 9-15 in Memphis, TN). Use this form to submit theme ideas. Only signed original forms will be considered. Please submit entries to your local PTA. Local PTAs will submit up to 3 suggested applications to the Virginia PTA office

State deadline for theme submissions: Local units send up to 3 student application forms to the VA PTA state office by October 30, 2009.

Local PTA/PTSA _____

PTA/PTSA president _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Daytime phone () _____

E-mail address _____ Eight-digit National PTA ID 00 _ _ _ _ _

Student's name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Daytime phone () _____

E-mail address _____ School name _____

Theme idea _____

Student _____

Signature _____

Parent/guardian's signature _____

*NOTE: Please put only one theme suggestion per application. See used themes next page.

LOCAL UNIT DEADLINE DATE _____

PTA Reflections Program Themes: 1969 to 2011

Repeat themes will not be considered.

Reflections: Children and Youth Mirror Their World	1969–1970	If I Had a Wish	1990–1991
Reflections: Children and Youth Look to Tomorrow	1970–1971	Exploring New Beginnings	1991–1992
Reflections: America, The Beautiful, The Ugly	1971–1972	Imagine That	1992–1993
Reflections: This Is Our Country	1972–1973	If I Could Give the World a Gift	1993–1994
From Sea to Shining Sea	1973–1974	Dare to Discover	1994–1995
Our Heritage—Our Hopes	1974–1975	Just Open Your Eyes and See	1995–1996
Spirit of '76 – Miracle of America	1975–1976	It Could Happen	1996–1997
What the World Needs Now	1976–1977	Wouldn't It Be Great If	1997–1998
Love Is...	1977–1978	Suddenly you turn around and...	1998–1999
Look Out Your Window	1978–1979	Anything is possible...	1999–2000
Behind the Gates of Tomorrow	1979–1980	It would be really strange if...	2000–2001
What a Family Means to Me	1980–1981	I hold in my hand...	2001–2002
What Makes Me Smile	1981–1982	Signs of Courage	2002–2003
Life in These United States	1982–1983	I am really happy when...	2003–2004
I Have a Dream	1983–1984	A Different Kind of Hero	2004–2005
What Sparks My Imagination	1984–1985	I Wonder Why...	2005–2006
From Liberty's View	1985–1986	My Favorite Place	2006–2007
In Celebration: A Past to Remember, A Future to Mold	1986–1987	I Can Make a Difference by...	2007–2008
Wonders of the World	1987–1988	Wow!	2008–2009
Proud Experiences	1988–1989	Beauty is...	2009–2010
Where Does the Sky End?	1989–1990	Together We Can	2010–2011



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

Students must adhere to the following General Student Participation Rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

The theme for the 2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program is “Beauty is...” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

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 state and local PTA/PTSA to determine each student’s eligibility in the Reflections Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Grade Divisions

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

- Primary: **preschool–grade 2**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5**
- Middle/Junior: **grades 6–8**
- Senior: **grades 9–12**

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, the national PTA organization suggests that they be grouped as follows:

- Primary: **up to age 7**
- Intermediate: **ages 8–10**
- Middle/Junior: **ages 11–13**
- Senior: **ages 14+**

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

Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of six arts areas:

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

The national PTA organization does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

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. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself—the dance choreography or film production (including screenplay, camerawork, and directing) or musical composition (including written score and any lyrics) etc.—must be the creative product of one student only. (See the specific arts area rules for details.)

Use of copyrighted material (other than recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries) 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.

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 complete the form.

GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES Page 2

Students have the option of titling their works. If a work has a title, the title must be included on the Student Entry Form. **If the work has no title, please write "Untitled."** All entries must include an artist statement that describes how the piece relates to the theme. For most arts areas, students must also answer a few questions about how they created their works; see Required Information on the Student Entry Form.

Required Artist Statement

Each participant is required to submit an artist statement that describes what inspired him or her to create the work and how it relates to the theme. **The artist statement is mandatory for all entries in all grade divisions.** The statement should not exceed 250 words; there is no minimum length. The Student Entry Form provides a space for the artist statement; if the statement does not fit in the space given, it may be written on a separate sheet and attached to the Student Entry Form. **Make sure the student's full name appears on any sheet attached to the Student Entry Form.**

Children with Disabilities

PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the national level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. The national PTA organization 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.

However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs may vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

Deadlines

Students must submit all works by the deadline established by their local PTA/PTSA.

Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program sets its own deadline for entries, in adherence with state, district/region, and council deadlines. Entries are judged at the local level and the top entries are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, district/region, or state).

Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your state PTA office or arts chair. The national PTA organization does not record deadlines for local, council, district/region, or state PTAs.

Judging

All national entries are judged on **artistic merit, creativity, mastery of the medium, and interpretation of the theme.**

Mastery of the medium in the context of the national Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student demonstrates in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray 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.

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



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules.

Description

A dance choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance recorded on a CD or DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current Reflections Program theme. It is suggested that the required artist statement be given at the beginning of the recording, in addition to being written on the Student Entry Form.

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 his/her original work.

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, and the dance itself.

Traditional Dance

The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or the significance of the choreography might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a dance choreography entry that involves traditional cultural or regional dances.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed **three** minutes.
- The choreography should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit a CD or DVD of the dance performance.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).

- **Please state your artist statement at the beginning of the recording** (the artist statement is not considered part of the three minutes of the entry).

Format

- 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 CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD/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.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector; then secure the sheet protector to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

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.

Music

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.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, in addition to crediting any background music, please state who performed the choreography. (Please obtain parental consent for any minors who appear in the performance.)



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | FILM PRODUCTION

Students must adhere to the General Student 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 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.

Styles

- **Animation:** Animation may be drawn; created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc.; or computer-generated.
- **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** Nonfiction documentation using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** Video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **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.
- **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.

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 film.
- Entries should be submitted on CD or DVD.

Format

- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .QT (QuickTime video)
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- The entry should be saved as a file on the CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD/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.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector; then secure the sheet protector to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

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.).

Music

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.

Use of Other Copyrighted Material

Films may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, in addition to crediting any background music, please answer the following: Who appears in your film? (Please obtain parental consent for any minors who appear in your film.)



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | LITERATURE

Students must adhere to the General Student 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. Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

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.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and two copies of the entry are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not accepted. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Format

- Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
- Submit the original and two copies of the entry in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder, or place all the materials in a clear sheet protector.
- Do not mount entries.
- Do not submit entries with text on both sides of the page.
- Write the student’s name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.
- Number all pages.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Dictation and Typing

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- 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.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

Translation

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



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Students must adhere to the General Student 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. Musical composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

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.

Musical Notation

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

- **Primary and Intermediate:** No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.
- **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.

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.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- Submit a CD recording of a performance of the composition.

- Students are not required to perform their own compositions.
- A student’s composition may be performed by a group
- Score size:
 - Entries should be no larger than 11 in. X 14 in.
 - Band/orchestra compositions may be 11” x 16”
 - Do not mount or bind the scores

Format

- 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.
- 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.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector; then secure the sheet protector to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close windows and turn off all noisemaking devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
- Don’t record at too loud (in the red zone on the meter) or too soft (meter barely moving) a level.
- 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.
- 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.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

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



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | PHOTOGRAPHY

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Photography Rules.

Description

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or 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.

Presentation

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
- Print the entries on paper or other two-dimensional material.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and secure it with masking tape to the back of the photograph on top of the shrink-wrap.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form,

- Give the dimensions of the piece (including any mat).
- Specify the location and date of the shot.
- Describe the type of camera and process used in preparing the piece.

Use of Copyrighted Material

Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any photography submission, with the following exceptions:

Photographs may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.



“Beauty is . . .”

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program | VISUAL ARTS

Students must adhere to the General Student 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.

Presentation

- 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.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 30 inches, including a mat.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
- Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wood, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and secure it with masking tape to the back of the artwork on top of the shrink-wrap.
- Include the title and required artist statement on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece (including any mat) and describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.).

Works Not Accepted

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

Use of Copyrighted Material

Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any visual arts submission, with the following exceptions:

Visual artworks may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine clippings, Internet images, and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, *original* work of art on its own.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program STUDENT ENTRY FORM Theme: “Beauty is . . .”

Directions: Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). Completely fill out the form down to and including the required signatures. Leave the boxed area for local PTA information blank. If you need more space, use the back of this form or an extra sheet of paper. Be sure to write your full name on any additional pages.

	Grade Division (check one)		Arts Area (check one)
Grade _____	Primary: Preschool–Grade 2	_____	Dance Choreography
Age _____	Intermediate: Grades 3–5	_____	Film Production
	Middle/Junior: Grades 6–8	_____	Literature
	Senior: Grades 9–12	_____	Music Composition
Gender M ___ F ___		_____	Photography
		_____	Visual Arts

Title of work _____

Required artist statement

Explain how your work relates to the theme? _____

See attached (Please print your name on any attached sheets.)

Required Information

Photography and Visual Arts: Give the dimensions of the work in inches, including mat. **L** _____ **W** _____

Photography: Location/Date of shot. _____

Describe the type of camera used and the process used in preparing the piece. _____

Visual Arts: Describe the media (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.). _____

Dance Choreography: Who performed your choreography? _____

Film Production: Respond to the following:
Who appears in your video? _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____

Dance Choreography and Film Production: Credit the background music below. _____

Musical Composition: Respond to the following:

Circle one: Traditional instrumentation Synthesizer

Who performed your composition for your recording? _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____

Are lyrics included? If so, how do your lyrics complement your composition? _____

— Fold here _____

Student’s first name _____ Middle name _____ Last name _____

Address 1 _____ Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ E-mail address _____

PTA includes the national, state, district, council, and local PTA/PTSA organization or unit. I grant PTA permission to use my works for commercial or noncommercial use, including but not limited to public presentation of the work and reproduction of the work in print, electronic, and multimedia formats to promote the Reflections Program. PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to a copy or to a slide. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. Entries may not be returned. I understand that I must participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA/PTSA in good standing. I affirm that this is my own original work. **I understand that the submission of my entry into the Reflections Program constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.**

Signature of student _____ Signature of parent/legal guardian (necessary if child is under 18 years) _____

To be completed by local PTA		Check one: PTA <input type="checkbox"/> PTSA <input type="checkbox"/>	
Local chair first name _____	Local chair last name _____	Phone () _____	
E-mail _____	PTA/PTSA name _____		
PTA address _____	City _____	State _____	ZIP _____
Local Eight-Digit PTA ID _____			

Local PTA good standing status _____	Membership dues date paid _____	Insurance paid date XX _____	Bylaws approval date _____
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City/Council _____ **District** _____



REFLECTIONS 2009-2010

“Beauty is...”

Helpful Hints for completing the Student Entry Form

1. Download a student entry form from www.vapta.org to your computer. Save. Fill it out. Print it. Get two complete signatures. Place in sheet protector. Attach to work according to Presentation criteria of each art area. See Form Instruction file on website.
2. Fill out form completely. Include grade and age.
3. Be sure to have two full signatures, unless student is 18 or older.
4. Print out on white paper ONLY, 8 ½ inches X 11 inches.
5. Artists and photographers state dimensions of your entry. Include mat. Required!
6. Music Composition artists have 4 Required questions to answer.
7. Photography artists have two Required questions to answer.
8. Visual Artists remember to include a description of your media used.
9. If music is used for Choreography or Film, document what it was on entry form. Include title, composer and performer. New time limit for dance entries-3 min. max.
10. If you didn't use computer, use black ball point pen. No pencil. Print legibly.
11. Required Artist statement at every level. See Student Entry Form. Dance students must state Artist statement on CD/DVD, then record choreography entry.
12. Be sure you have followed all the rules stated, **especially length and size**, on each art area rules page.
13. Follow “Presentation” section for attaching Student Entry Form to your work.
14. DO NOT WRITE ANY AWARDS OVER A FILLED OUT ENTRY FORM NOR CUT UP ANY STUDENT ENTRY FORM TO MAKE IT FIT! FOLD INSTEAD!