

## REFLECTION PTA Rules

By submitting an artwork to the “National PTA Reflections Program,” entrants accept and agree to be bound by the official rules for participation as well as the entry requirements for their specific arts category and division. Additional state program requirements may apply. Any violation of these rules may, at PTA’s discretion, result in disqualification. All decisions of the reviewers regarding this program are final and binding in all respects. (The “PTA” referred to in these rules include all PTAs reviewing the submission).

1. **ELIGIBILITY.** Students must participate through a local PTA/PTSA. Each student’s eligibility is determined by the state and local PTA/PTSA. A student may develop an entry inside or outside of school.

2. **ARTS CATEGORIES.** There are six arts categories—dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in one or more arts categories. See each arts category rules for additional entry requirements.

3. **DIVISIONS.** Students may enter in the appropriate division for their grade (Primary: Preschool-Grade 2; Intermediate: Grades 3-5; Middle School: Grades 6-8; High School: Grades 9-12) or as a Special Artist (all grades welcome). The Accessible Arts Division welcomes students from all grades and abilities and offers non-artistic accommodations (e.g. adaptive technology; transcribing) for students to participate fully in PTA Reflections. Assistants must refrain from being involved in the artistic process (e.g. developing an artist statement, choreography, music lyrics, storyboards, etc.) Student recognition and awards are announced as part of the Special Artist Division.

4. **HOW TO ENTER.** Entrants must submit their artwork (photos, files) to [ReflectionsCTPTA@gmail.com](mailto:ReflectionsCTPTA@gmail.com) and student entry form to the link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIAAt9jctmHkUpdPsj7esOeLIR15BtalWd\\_RH4Az5NxxFZMeg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIAAt9jctmHkUpdPsj7esOeLIR15BtalWd_RH4Az5NxxFZMeg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

. Entrants must follow requirements and instructions specific to each arts category and division. Entry form and artwork must be submitted by December 20th, 2024.

5. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.** (All participants must also follow arts category and if applicable, Special Artist Division rules)

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year’s theme may be submitted.
- 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 except in the Accessible Arts Division. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. See the specific arts category rules and special artist division rules for details.

- Each entry must contain a title
- Each entry must include an artist statement.

The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include at least 10 words and not exceed 100 words.

- Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for background music in dance choreography and film production entries. If used in dance choreography and film

production entries, background music must be cited at the end of the Artist Statement (Citations will not add to the Artist Statement word count)

- Additional performers must be recognized in the Artist Statement. (Additional performers' names will not add to the Artist Statement word count)
- Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.
- Use of PowerPoint templates is prohibited.

6. Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must provide a brief description of the tools and method, including any generative elements.

7. FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION. Entries will be reviewed primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, their originality and creativity. The National PTA Reflections® program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork submitted by the local, regional or state levels. National PTA reserves the right to use its sole discretion in selecting the submissions to be recognized at the national level. Under no condition may parents or students contact a reviewer to dispute the status/score of any entry. Each PTA in its sole discretion will select finalists for exhibition and provide awards/prizes. National awards and events are announced May 1, 2025 at [PTA.org/Reflections](http://PTA.org/Reflections).

8. OWNERSHIP AND LICENSE. Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.

9. PARTICIPATING ENTITIES. This program is administered by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA affiliates. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program.

## CT PTA Entry Rules

### All Entries

- All digital entry files must be named with the student's name and the entry title. If you have more than one entry in the same category with the same title, add a number at the end of the title for each additional entry to distinguish between them
- The artist's name does not appear in the artwork and artist statement

### Dance Choreography Rules

- Entrant is the sole choreographer
- Artwork is in a MP4, MOV or AVI file
- Background music citation (title, composer, and performer) is included in your Entry Details. No other copyrighted material is included
- All dancers' names are included in the Entry Details
- Artwork does not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes)

### Film Production Rules

- Entrant is the sole screenwriter, cinematographer, camera operator, editor and producer
- Artwork is in a MP4, MOV or AVI file
- Power Point Presentations are not acceptable
- All TECHNOLOGY used to create the artwork is listed included in the Entry Details
- All performers' names are included in the Entry Details
- Background music citation (title, composer, and performer) is included in your Entry Details. No other copyrighted material is included
- Artwork does not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes)
- Selfie sticks, tripods, remotes, and drones are allowed

### Literature Rules

- Entrant is the sole author of the entry
- Artwork is in a PDF file as 8.5"x11" digital pages
- Copyrighted material is not included
- Artwork does not exceed 1,000 words. Include your word count in the Entry Details
- Artwork may be handwritten or typed

### Music Composition Rules

- Entrant is the sole composer
- Artwork is in a MP3 or WAV file
- Instruments used and all technology used to create the artwork is listed included in the Entry Details; algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.
- All musicians' names are included in the Entry Details
- Artwork does not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes)
- Copyrighted material is not included

Music rules continued on the next page

### Additional Music Notation Rules (Middle and High School Only)

- Required: Notation OR a written reflective statement with a musically technical explanation (100 words or less).

- Music Notation files should have the same file name as the entry
- Notation or Reflective statement is submitted as a PDF file along with your artwork.

If writing a reflective statement, consider answering these questions:

- What musical decisions were made to achieve the final version of the piece?
- How did you develop the musical elements?
- What equipment was used (if any)?
- What sounds and/or musical ideas were used to represent certain ideas or emotions?
- How were your creative and musical decisions influenced by your expertise, context, and expressive intent?

### Photography Rules

- Entrant is the sole photographer and editor
- Digital entry is in a JPEG, JPG, or PNG file
- Digital image dimensions is at least 640x960 (pixels) and 300 dpi (resolution)
- Entry is not a collage. Collages are accepted as Visual Arts entries
- Entry includes a digital file AND, if required by your local PTA, a mounted print
- The mounted print, if required by your local PTA, is between 5"x7" and 8"x10" in size. Write the size in the Entry Details
- Printed artwork, if required by your local PTA, is mounted on light paperboard/cardboard, no frame, no larger than 11"x14"
- The artist's name is written on the back of the mounting if physical entries are collected by the local PTA/PTSA. Be sure the ink did not bleed
- All TECHNOLOGY used to create the artwork is listed included in the Entry Details
- No copyrighted material is included, except incidentally

### Visual Arts Rules

- Entrant is the sole artist
- All TECHNOLOGY used to create the artwork is listed included in the Entry Details
- The entry size in the Entry Details
- No copyrighted material is included, except incidentally
- Entry includes a digital file AND, if required by your local PTA, mounted artwork
- Digital entry is a JPEG, JPG, or PNG file
- Digital image dimensions are at least 640x960 (pixels) and 300 dpi (resolution)
- If submitting the physical artwork, the artist's name is written on the back of the mounting. Be sure the ink did not bleed.

Additional rules for 2D Visual Arts

- 2D Artwork is no larger than 12"x16"x3/8"

Additional rules for 3D Visual Arts

- 3 digital images of the artwork at different angles are included for each 3D entry
- 3D artwork is no larger than 12"x12"x12"
- The school PTA Reflections Chair was contacted for delivery instructions if artwork is required to be submitted to your local PTA