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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Virginia Students Honored for State-Level Achievement in Reflections Arts Contest**

**February 2024 (Richmond, VA)** - Virginia PTA is proud to recognize 138 student artists who placed at the state-level in PTA's 2023-2024 Reflections Arts Contest "I am Hopeful Because..."

The National PTA Reflections program is an arts contest that has engaged millions of students over the past 50 years. Annually, in response to a student selected theme, students are encouraged to reflect on the theme and submit original works of art in the medium of their choice; dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Students participate in five grade-level divisions: Primary (Pre-K- Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), and Special Artist (open to all grades).

Entries are judged based on the student's interpretation of the theme, creativity, and artistic technical skill. This year's students inspired us with their interpretation and artistic skill in reflecting on the theme "I Am Hopeful Because..." Students submitted entries through their local school PTA, where they were judged by local artists before moving on to compete at a city, county, or regional level. First-place winners, identified through County/City Council PTA contests, as well as a regional contest for PTAs not located in a Council PTA, were judged at the state-level by artists from across Virginia.

Virginia PTA is advancing the artwork of twenty-eight (28) students who received an Outstanding Interpretation Award (1st place) at the state-level ,and who now have an opportunity to compete with other students from across the nation. National PTA winners will be announced in May, and the students who place first at the national level will receive an \$800 Young Artist Scholarship, and \$200 for their local school PTA.

Virginia PTA will hold an awards ceremony to recognize state-level winners on Saturday April 13, 2024, at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA.

# **VIRGINIA PTA 2024 Reflections Arts Contest Awards**

## **DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY**

### **High School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Karson Ray, Salem High School, Virginia Beach Council

Award of Excellence: Joy Snipes, Grafton High School, York Council

Award of Merit: Katherine Thomson, The Academies of Loudoun, Loudoun Council

Honorable Mention: Nikhita Saravanan, Maggie L. Walker Gov. School, Richmond

### **Middle School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Isabella Nguyen, Queens Lake Middle School, York Council

Award of Excellence: Lindsay Brody, Brambleton Middle School, Loudoun Council

Award of Merit: Emmett Hallstrom, Liberty Middle School, Hanover Council

Award of Merit: Saranya Manikandan, Short Pump Middle School, Henrico Council

Honorable Mention: Claire Lineberry, Tomahawk Creek Middle School, Chesterfield Council

### **Intermediate Division (Grades 3 through 5):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Olivia Cherrix, Chincoteague Elementary School, Chincoteague

Award of Excellence: Emily Messier, Bedford Elementary School, Bedford Council

Award of Merit: Madison Johnson, Western Branch Intermediate School, Chesapeake Council

Honorable Mention: Caroline Farmer, Pearson's Corner Elementary School, Hanover

### **Primary Division (Grades Pre-K through 2):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Wyatt Woods, Bethel Manor Elementary School, York Council

Award of Excellence: Nivaan Gaikwad, Creighton's Corner Elementary School, Loudoun Council

Award of Merit: Juliet Rosner, Wolftrap Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Honorable Mention: Adithi Sanker Iyer, Rivers Edge Elementary School, Henrico Council

## **FILM PRODUCTION**

### **High School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Jude Caldwell, Thomas Jefferson School for Science & Technology, Fairfax Council

Award of Excellence: Suzanne Hunt, Hickory High School, Chesapeake Council

Award of Merit: Scarlett Clark, First Colonial High School, Virginia Beach Council

Honorable Mention: Jake Nelson, Maggie L. Walker Gov. School, Richmond

### **Middle School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Mason Mirabile, Williamsburg Middle School, Arlington Council

Award of Excellence: Alaina Neese, Robious Middle School, Chesterfield Council

Award of Excellence: Ananda Rajasekaran, Brambleton Middle School, Loudoun Council

Award of Merit: Erya Chai, Haycock Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Honorable Mention: James Carlos, George H Moody Middle School, Henrico Council

### **Intermediate Division (Grades 3 through 5):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Lillian Lambert, Louise Archer WS, Fairfax Council

Award of Excellence: Levi Robinson, Pole Green Elementary School, Hanover Council

Award of Merit: Roman Pace, Chincoteague Elementary School, Chincoteague

Honorable Mention: Vaibhav Vinodh Kumar, Jackson Davis Elementary School, Henrico Council

### **Primary Division (Grades Pre-K through 2):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Anna Wolf, Southeastern Elementary School, Chesapeake Council

Award of Excellence: Juliet Rosner, Wolftrap Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Merit: Hrithvik John, Springfield Elementary School, Henrico Council

Honorable Mention: Gracelyn Cox, South Anna Elementary School, Hanover Council

### **Special Artist (Grades Pre- K through 12)**

Outstanding Interpretation: Lochlan Howell, Kersey Creek Elementary School, Hanover Council

## **LITERATURE**

### **High School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Charvi Deorah, Maggie L. Walker Gov. School, Richmond

Award of Excellence: Vishalini Rajan, The Academies of Loudoun, Loudoun Council

Award of Merit: Vivian Rinko, King George High School, King George Council

Honorable Mention: Briseis Bradley, Grassfield High School, Chesapeake Council

Honorable Mention: Inger Logan, Langley High School, Fairfax Council

Honorable Mention: Riley Cartwright, Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach Council

### **Middle School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Elizabeth Kim, Tabb Middle School, York Council

Award of Excellence: Amelia Koch, Stenwood Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Merit: Luna Waehner, Swift Creek Elementary School, Chesterfield Council

Honorable Mention: Navya Srivastava, Trailside Middle School, Loudoun Council

Honorable Mention: Lionel Schwarz, James Madison Middle School, Roanoke Central Council

Honorable Mention: Yu-Lin Chen, Old Donation School, Virginia Beach Council

### **Intermediate Division (Grades 3 through 5):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Eloise Garrison, Alberta Smith, Chesterfield Council

Award of Excellence: Rosalie Stull, Buchanan Elementary School, Buchanan

Award of Excellence: Allison Rude, G.W. Carver Elementary School, Salem City Council

Award of Merit: Ana Maria Solis, Cedar Road Elementary School, Chesapeake Council

Award of Merit: Dhruv A. Menon, Creighton's Corner Elementary School, Loudoun Council

Award of Merit: William Borer, Mount Vernon Elementary School, York Council

Honorable Mention: Sahana Karthik, McNair Elementary School, Fairfax Council

### **Primary Division (Grades Pre-K through 2):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Langston Ross- Lawrence, D J Montague Elementary, Williamsburg/ James City Council

Award of Excellence: Juliette Ardelan, Butts Road Primary, Chesapeake Council

Award of Merit: Satkriti Karthik, Cedar Lane Elementary School, Loudoun Council

Honorable Mention: Charlotte Murphy, Cardinal Elementary School, Arlington Council

Honorable Mention: Kaia Trieshmann Murphy, Hilton Elementary School, Newport News Council

### **Special Artist (Grades Pre- K through 12)**

Outstanding Interpretation: Stephanie Groves, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Excellence: Mychael Dale Willon, Warhill High School, Williamsburg/ James City Council

## **MUSICAL COMPOSITION**

### **High School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Wilbur Nardone, Washington- Liberty High School, Arlington Council

Award of Excellence: Norah H. McCormick, The Academies of Loudoun, Loudoun Council

Award of Merit: Lau Shar, Bruton High School, York Council

Honorable Mention: Vrinda Shah, Maggie L. Walker Gov. School, Richmond

### **Middle School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Will Gurganous, Brambleton Middle School, Loudoun Council

Award of Excellence: Ansley Mellina, Swift Creek Middle School, Chesterfield Council

Award of Merit: Violet Farmer, Andrew Lewis Middle School, Salem City Council

Honorable Mention: Owen Scriber, Swanson Middle School, Arlington Council

### **Intermediate Division (Grades 3 through 5):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Amaya Santiago, South Anna Elementary School, Hanover Council

Award of Excellence: Carter Mattson, Seaford Elementary School, York Council

Award of Merit: Valentina McCoy, Falls Church Elementary School, Falls Church

Award of Merit: Emilia Boyer, Sycolin Creek Elementary School, Loudon Council

Honorable Mention: Chandon Mulkey, Southeastern Elementary School, Chesapeake Council

### **Primary Division (Grades Pre-K through 2):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Niranjana Rajasekaran, Creighton's Corner Elementary School, Loudoun Council

Award of Excellence: Kiera McMurray, Southeastern Elementary School, Chesapeake Council

Award of Merit: Gwen Spector, Robious Elementary School, Chesterfield Council

Honorable Mention: Anthony Molina, South Salem Elementary School, Salem City Council

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## **High School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Julia Good, Tabb High School, York Council

Award of Excellence: Nikhita Saravanan, Maggie L. Walker Gov. School, Richmond

Award of Merit: Victoria Bujoreanu, Edison High School, Fairfax Council

Honorable Mention: Everett Graham, Liberty High School, Bedford County Council

## **Middle School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Madylynn Murphy, Queens Lake Middle School, York Council

Award of Excellence: Matthew Lee, Bell Creek Middle School, Hanover Council

Award of Merit: William Geer, Wolftrap Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Honorable Mention: Fiona Schwarz, James Madison Middle School, Roanoke Central Council

## **Intermediate Division (Grades 3 through 5):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Emerson Quark, Matthew Whaley Elementary School, Williamsburg/ James City Council

Award of Excellence: Hattie Lewis, Coventry Elementary School, York Council

Award of Merit: Sumayyah Hussain, Haycock Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Honorable Mention: Julia Santos, Glenwood Elementary School, Virginia Beach Council

## **Primary Division (Grades Pre-K through 2):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Abigail Wise, West Salem Elementary School, Salem City Council

Award of Excellence: George Gardner, Laurel Ridge Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Merit: Charlotte Kentrolis, Buchanan Elementary School, Buchanan

Honorable Mention: Izzy Walker, Butts Road Primary School, Chesapeake Council

## **Special Artist (Grades Pre- K through 12)**

Outstanding Interpretation: Stephanie Groves, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Excellence: Mychael Dale Willon, Warhill High School, Williamsburg/James City Council

Award of Merit: Leonard Brown III, Crestwood Intermediate School, Chesapeake Council

Honorable Mention: Lewis "LJ" Seiff, Swanson Middle School, Arlington Council

Honorable Mention: Dylan Lamb, King George Elementary School, King George Council

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **High School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Callia Sun, The Academies of Loudoun, Loudoun Council

Award of Excellence: Kristen Han, Langley High School, Fairfax Council

Award of Merit: Diya Rudra Sundaram, Washington- Liberty School, Arlington Council

Honorable Mention: Dylan Davis, Grassfield High School, Chesapeake Council

### **Middle School Division:**

Outstanding Interpretation: Niharika Pramod Deshmane, Katherine Johnson Middle School, Fairfax Council

Award of Excellence: Livia Ward, Queens Lake Middle School, York Council

Award of Merit: Stella Wirt, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Roanoke Central Council

Honorable Mention: Suroshree Sarker, Western Branch Middle School, Chesapeake Council

### **Intermediate Division (Grades 3 through 5):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Shruthi Giridaran, Kingston Elementary School, Virginia Beach Council

Award of Excellence: Jaehwan Kim, Haycock Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Merit: Sloane Cowart, Arlington County Montessori School, Arlington Council

Honorable Mention: Summer Zhou, Shady Grove Elementary School, Henrico Council

### **Primary Division (Grades Pre-K through 2):**

Outstanding Interpretation: Stella Meadows, John B Dey Elementary School, Virginia Beach Council

Award of Excellence: Karthik H. Murali, Twin Hickory Elementary School, Henrico Council

Award of Merit: Clara Curro, West Salem Elementary School, Salem City Council

Honorable Mention: James Perego, Kersey Creek Elementary School, Hanover Council

### **Special Artist (Grades Pre- K through 12)**

Outstanding Interpretation: Simon Smith, Wolftrap Elementary School, Fairfax Council

Award of Excellence: Demarea Harper, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Roanoke Central Council

Award of Merit: Bruce Bear Chituck, Hickory Middle School, Chesapeake Council

Honorable Mention: China Garcia, Trailside Middle School, Loudoun Council

## **About Virginia PTA**

*Virginia PTA is the oldest and largest non-partisan, child advocacy volunteer association in Virginia with more than 130,000 members who are committed to building family to school partnerships and advocating for the academic success, health and well-being of all children. As the leader in supporting local school parent groups, Virginia PTA strengthens Virginia's schools and communities by providing non-profit technical support, leadership training, family engagement toolkits, student recognition, advocacy tools, and parent education resources for approximately 900 school communities across Virginia.*