NATIONAL PTA® REFLECTIONS®

2026-2027 CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Explore the arts and express yourself!

What My CULTURE Means to Me

2026-2027 PTA Reflections

Theme: What My Culture Means to Me

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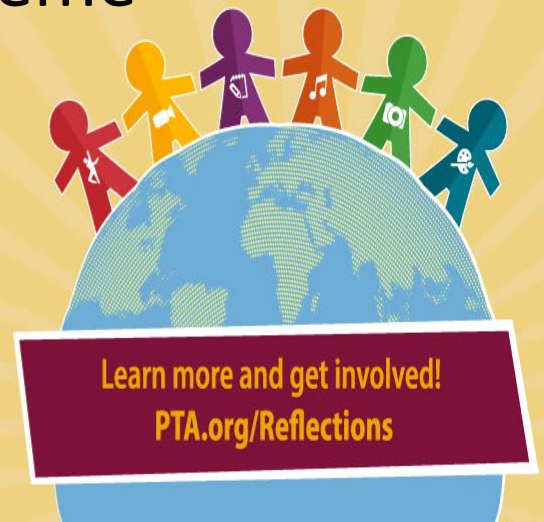
Theme

National PTA arts program encouraging student creativity and cultural expression.

Theme submitted by Sophia Partola of Wilton High School PTSA in Connecticut. Sophia's theme will be used to inspire hundreds of thousands of artists across the nation as they participate in the PTA Reflections art program.



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Categories & Divisions

- DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- FILM PRODUCTION
- VISUAL ARTS
- LITERATURE
- MUSIC COMPOSITION

Category Guidelines

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Entry Guidelines

- Entries must be new artwork inspired by the theme, created by one student, and include a title and artist statement.
- **Student Artist:** Must be the original artist. Only one artist (e.g., student submitting the entry) is recognized for awards.
- **Performers:** The artist may be the performer or one of the performers but does not have to perform in the entry. Performing others' artwork (e.g., recitals, renditions, dance trends) is not accepted. Submit only original pieces inspired by the theme.
- **Editing:** Entries with added elements (e.g., graphics, filters) or heavy video editing *are not accepted.*
- **Lengths and Size:**
  - Video and audio submissions must not exceed 5 minutes or 1,000 MB (1,000 megabyte).
  - Literature may not exceed 2000 words.
  - Photography may not exceed 11x14 inches.
  - Visual Arts 2D artwork may not exceed 24x30 inches;
  - Visual Arts 3D artwork should include 3 photos from different angles.
- **Cite Sources:** If background music is used, *it must be cited on the entry form*.
- **Formats:** Vary by category. Please check the guidelines before submitting

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Program Planning

- Register your program on PTA.org/Reflections,
- Recruit a committee,
- Review Art Categories and Divisions and decide on what you will offer
- Recruit judges,
- Promote participation,
- Establish submission deadlines

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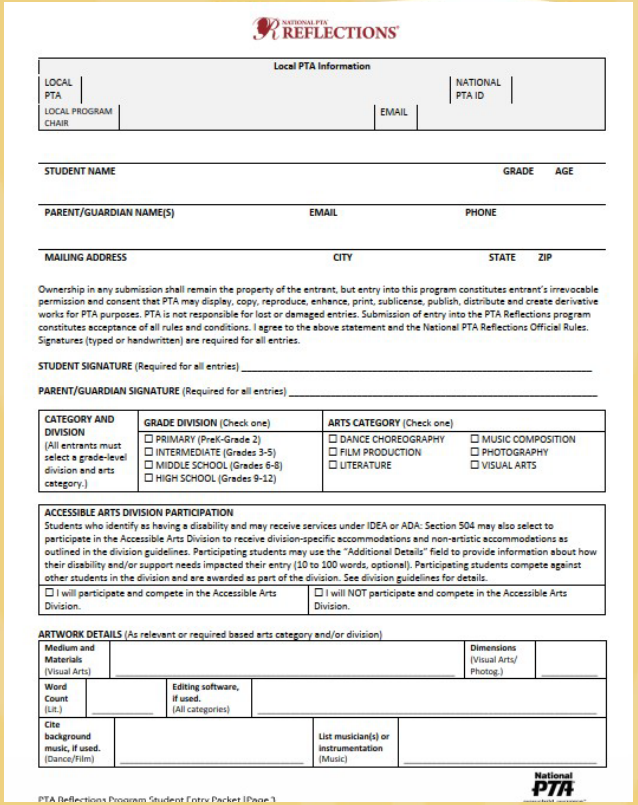
Collecting Entries

- Set up a simple submission process for students and families. You can use the entry form provided or accept the entry form and/or entries electronically.
- If you use the paper entry form FILL OUT THE GRAY BOX before you send it out. This year's form is a fillable PDF.
- If you use an electronic entry, make sure to collect all of the information on the paper form especially parent consent.
- Make sure that your submission deadline is clearly stated!



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Local PTA Information

LOCAL PTA		NATIONAL PTA ID	
LOCAL PROGRAM CHAIR		EMAIL	

STUDENT NAME GRADE AGE

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) EMAIL PHONE

MAILING ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

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. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules. Signatures (typed or handwritten) are required for all entries.

STUDENT SIGNATURE (Required for all entries) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (Required for all entries) _____

CATEGORY AND DIVISION (All entrants must select a grade-level division and arts category.)	**GRADE DIVISION** (Check one)	**ARTS CATEGORY** (Check one)	
	☐ PRIMARY (PreK-Grade 2) ☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5) ☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8) ☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)	☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ☐ FILM PRODUCTION ☐ LITERATURE	☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION ☐ PHOTOGRAPHY ☐ VISUAL ARTS

ACCESSIBLE ARTS DIVISION PARTICIPATION

Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may also select to participate in the Accessible Arts Division to receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Participating students may use the "Additional Details" field to provide information about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (10 to 100 words, optional). Participating students compete against other students in the division and are awarded as part of the division. See division guidelines for details.

☐ I will participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.	☐ I will NOT participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

ARTWORK DETAILS (As relevant or required based arts category and/or division)

Medium and Materials (Visual Arts)		**Dimensions** (Visual Arts/ Photog.)	
Word Count (Lit.)		**Editing software, if used.** (All categories)	
Cite background music, if used. (Dance/Film)		**List musician(s) or instrumentation** (Music)	

National PTA

PTA Reflections Program Student Entry Packet | Page 2

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Collecting Entries

- To make things easier through the levels of judging, once entries are digital, use the file naming convention provided:
  Art_Category.Grade_Division. School_PTA. StudentLastName
- Each entry MUST have a title and artist statement. Titles should be creative and highlight the artwork and theme. It can be inspired by the theme but should not copy the theme. Artist Statements explain the artist's artwork, take on the theme, creative process, key elements of the artwork, and should be between 10 and 100 words in the artist's own words.
- Organize entries for review, **checking for eligibility and entry requirements.**

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Judging Criteria

Refer to the Reflections Review Rubric included in the reviewer packet

- **Interpretation of Theme (40 pts.)** How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement.
- **Creativity (30 pts.)** How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
- **Technical Skill (30 pts.)** The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

Reflections Review Rubric

Criteria / Level	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Accomplished	Advanced
Interpretation	**1-8 pts.**	**9-16 pts.**	**17-24 pts.**	**25-32 pts.**	**33-40 pts.**
How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the work itself and the artist statement.	Interpretation lacks clarity and does not communicate the student's concept.	Interpretation lacks clarity and does not fully communicate the student's concept based on the theme.	Interpretation communicates the student's concept based on the theme.	Interpretation clearly communicates the student's concept based on the theme but lacks meaning, purpose and integrity.	Interpretation clearly communicates the student's whole concept based on the theme with meaning, purpose and integrity.
Creativity	**1-6 pts.**	**7-12 pts.**	**13-18 pts.**	**19-24 pts.**	**25-30 pts.**
How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.	Work is somewhat original and reflects the theme in very conventional ways.	Work is somewhat original and reflects the theme in conventional ways.	Work is original and reflects the theme in conventional ways.	Work is primarily original and reflects the theme in imaginative ways.	Work is highly original and reflects the theme in un-conventional, interesting, imaginative and new ways.
Technique	**1-6 pts.**	**7-12 pts.**	**13-18 pts.**	**19-24 pts.**	**25-30 pts.**
The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area.	Work demonstrates very limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates capable skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates expertise of skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates mastery of skill and knowledge of the arts area.

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Key Dates

- Virginia PTA Webinar Sept. 27 at 7 PM
- Council submissions due on or before Dec. 15
- Non-council submissions Jan. 10
- Council to VAPTA Jan. 25.

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What My CULTURE Means to Me

Celebration & WrapUp

- Build your event team!
- Plan & Host your awards ceremony!
- Decorate your school with artwork!
- Notify students who are advancing!
- Return all non-advancing art back to students!
- Attend your Council's award ceremony!
- Gather Feedback

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Resources

- Category Guideline Sheets
- https://vapta.org/reflections/
- https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections

Do you have a lot of experience as a Reflections Chair? Join the VAPTA Reflections Committee! Contact karin.wallace@vapta.org