

California State PTA Council Santa Clarita Valley District 34th

National PTA Reflections® Program Student Entry Form

2013—14 Theme: Believe, Dream, Inspire

This form can be used by students entering a Local PTA Reflections program or for student winners to gather necessary information for completing the official Online Student Entry Process to advance to the next round in the National PTA Reflections Competition.

<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female Grade: _____ Age: _____	Grade Division (Check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Primary (Preschool – Grade 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate (Grades 3-5) <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School (Grades 6-8) <input type="checkbox"/> High School (Grades 9-12) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Artist (All grades)	Arts Category (Check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Choreography <input type="checkbox"/> Film Production <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Music Composition <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts
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Teacher/Room # _____

REQUIRED INFORMATION
ALONG WITH THE ARTS CATEGORY QUESTIONS ON THE BACK

Student First Name: _____ Student Last Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: () _____

I grant to PTA an irrevocable, unlimited license to display, copy, sublicense, publish, and create and sell derivative works from, my work submitted for the Reflections Program. 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.

→ _____ → _____

Full signature of student

Signature of parent/legal guardian (*necessary if child is under 18 years*)**LOCAL PTA INFO**Check one: ☒ PTA ☐ PTSA

8-digit PTA ID: _____

Local chair name: Roxanne Jeppesen Official PTA/PTSA name: Golden Oak PTAPTA address: 25201 Via Princessa City Santa Clarita State CA ZIP 91387E-mail goldenoakpta@gmail.com Phone(661) 251-8929Local PTA good standing status: ☒ Membership dues paid date / / ☒ Insurance paid date / / ☒ Bylaws approval date / / COUNTY: **United States**

ARTS CATEGORY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS – Answer questions for the arts category relevant to your artwork submission.

Title of Work (Required) _____

Required Artist Statement:

Explain how your work relates to the theme:

(At least 10 words Max 100 words)

Dance Choreography

1. What is the title of the dance music? _____
2. Who is the performing artist or musical group? _____
3. Who is the composer? _____ Who wrote the lyrics? _____

Film Production

1. What is the brand and model of camera that you used? _____
2. If you used editing software, what kind did you use? _____
3. If you used background music, what is the title? _____
4. Who is the performing artist or musical group? _____
5. Who is the composer? _____ Who wrote the lyrics? _____
6. List the names of the people who appeared in this film. _____

Music Composition

1. Are there singers/instrumentalists? If so, how many and what are their names? _____
2. Are there instruments? If so, what instruments? _____
3. If you used music composition software, what kind did you use? _____

Photography

1. What brand and model of camera did you use? _____
2. What kind of process was used to prepare your photograph? _____
3. Location of shot _____ Date of shot _____
4. Dimensions of picture? L _____ x W _____ Dimensions with matting (no frames)? L _____ x W _____

Visual Art

1. Describe the medium or type of visual art you developed (e.g., crayons, collage, oil on canvas). _____

2. Dimensions of picture? L _____ x W _____ Dimensions with matting (no frames)? L _____ x W _____

National PTA Reflections® Program

General Participation Rules

2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-5014

916.440.1985 • FAX 916.440.1986 • E-mail info@capta.org • www.capta.org

**Students must adhere to the General Participation Rules
as well as the rules for their specific arts categories.**

Student Eligibility: Students must participate in the National PTA Reflections® Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA 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 National PTA Reflections® Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Grade Divisions: Students may enter the National PTA Reflections® Program 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

Special Artist: Ungraded

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests they be grouped in the divisions below.

Primary: Up to age 7

Intermediate: Ages 8-10

Middle School: Ages 11-13

High School: Ages 14+

Special Artist: Ungraded

Arts Categories: There are six arts categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts. Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in one or more arts categories.

National PTA Reflections® Theme: “Believe, Dream, Inspire”

The theme for the 2013 – 2014 National PTA Reflections® Program is “Believe, Dream, Inspire.” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

Student Entry Process: Students enter the National PTA Reflections® Program at local levels. Program dates, deadlines, and local procedures are determined at State and Local levels. Students are advised to check with local programs for information specific to local procedures and program deadlines.

Only students that advance to the next round will be asked to complete an online student entry form. Other student participants *may* be asked to complete a local entry form for tracking purposes.

Program and Technical Requirements:

- **All artwork must contain a title and all entries 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 one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.

National PTA Reflections® Program General Participation Rules

- **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 Special Artist Division. 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 must be the creative product of one student only. See the specific Arts Category Rules for details.

- **Use of copyrighted material is prohibited**, except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries.
- **Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.** *Plagiarism* is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own.
- **Students entering the National PTA Reflections® Program at local levels should follow submission rules provided by Local PTAs.** Upon completion of the local program, students whose winning entries are selected to advance to the next level of the competition will complete an online entry form.
- **Browser Recommendations:** The National PTA Reflections Web pages can be accessed using any of the following browsers: Chrome 12 and greater; Firefox 3 and greater; Safari 4 and greater; and Internet Explorer 6 and greater.
- **File Formats:** PTAs should follow their State PTA guidelines for file formats related to artwork. State PTAs can submit any of the following file formats with a maximum file size of 1GB (gigabyte) to the National PTA Reflections Program:
 - **Video:** AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV
 - **Audio:** MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC
 - **Images:** JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP
 - **Documents:** DOC, DOCX, PDF, PPT, PPTX, HTML, XHTML, TXT, RTF, ODT

Judging:

All national entries are judged on:

- **Interpretation of the National PTA Reflections® theme – “Believe, Dream, Inspire”**
- **Artistic merit**
- **Creative merit**
- **Technical merit**

The National PTA Reflections® Program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Each PTA/PTSA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry. **All decisions of judges are final.**

For more information about the National PTA Reflections Program

Visit California State PTA at: www.capta.org under Programs click Reflections

Abridged Guidelines – Reflections Program 2013-14

Theme: *"Believe, Dream, Inspire"*



Due Date for Entries:

Contact Reflections Chair:

REFLECTIONS ARTS CATEGORIES:

Photography – Entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or a group of images, produced by a photographic process

- * The student must be the one to take the photograph
- * Must not exceed **11 x 14 INCLUDING THE MOUNTING OR MATTING**
- * **MUST BE MOUNTED or MATTED** on cardboard mat, poster board, or other sturdy material

Dance Choreography:

- * A Dance Choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance composition
- * Must not exceed 5 minutes and recorded on a **DVD ONLY; submit 2 DVD's saved as a file**, not a DVD movie
- * The choreographer may be the performer, one of the performers, but does not have to be
- * Costumes are not necessary, however, if used choreographer must also create the costumes

Film Production:

- * A Film Production entry must be an original work of fiction, non-fiction; with or without sound
- * Can be Animation, Narrative, Documentary, Experimental, or a Media Presentation
- * No PowerPoint presentations
- * Student must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson; and storyboarding and editing must also be done by the student
- * Must not exceed 5 minutes and recorded on **DVD ONLY; submit 2 DVD's saved as a file**, not as a DVD movie

Literature:

- * A Literature entry may be works of fiction or nonfiction, prose, poetry and drama
- * Entries must not exceed 2,000 words * Can be handwritten or typed (one sided only)
- * Must be on **8 ½ x 11 paper** * **DO NOT** mount or mat
- * Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language.

An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry

- * Must **submit 1 original and 2 copies**

Music Composition:

- * A Musical Composition entry may be voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments.
- * Must not exceed 5 minutes and recorded on **CD ONLY; submit 2 CD's saved as a .mp3 file**, not a CD/DVD movie
- * Middle and High School Entries: notation, including traditional tablature or electronic is required.
- * **Score** size shall not exceed **8 ½ x 11 paper**

Visual Arts:

- * A Visual Arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer generated* No 3-Dimensional art work * Laminating is discouraged
- * **MUST BE MOUNTED OR MATTED** and not to exceed 3/8 inch in thickness
- * Must not exceed **24 x 30 INCLUDING THE MOUNTING OR MATTING**

NEW Division - Special Artist:

This is a non-graded division limited to students whose physical, cognitive or mental health challenges meet the guidelines in the American Disabilities Act.

5 Divisions

Primary: Preschool-Grade 2

Intermediate: Grades 3-5

Middle School: Grades 6-8

High School: Grades 9-12

Special Artist: Ungraded

Entries must be the original work of one student only | Title and Artist Statement required | Enter as many times as you want to | Enter in as many art categories as you would like | No copyrighted material can be used

For more information: www.capta.org under Programs click Reflections

National PTA Reflections® Program Dance Choreography Rules

2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-5014

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All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.

Description

A dance choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current National PTA Reflections® Program theme.

The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but the choreographer does not have to perform in the entry.

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. 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(s), 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 & Format

- Use of copyrighted music in dance choreography is **acceptable** when the **title, composer and performer of any music in the submission are cited** on the student entry form.
- **DVD of dance performance must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.**
- Accepted file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV.

Tips for Audio/Visual Quality

- 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.

Submission Instructions

- **Record production on 2 (two) CD/DVD.**
- **Label both CD/DVDs with the title of your artwork, arts category, and division.**
- **Submit envelope to your PTA Reflections Chair containing your 2 (two) CD/DVDs and your student entry form.**

National PTA Reflections® Program Film Production Rules

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All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.

Description

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person. If the student chooses to use a computer, all storyboarding, editing, etc. must be done by the student. The student is not required to appear in the film but if the student chooses to, a camera tripod may be used. Entries may or may not include sound. Entries are judged primarily on how well the student uses film as an artist tool to communicate his/her Reflection on the theme.

Presentation & Format

- **Production must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.**
- Accepted file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV.

Styles

- **Animation:** Hand-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:** A nonfiction documentary using narration, facts and images.
- **Experimental:** A 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. The use of software that allows the user to build a virtual environment using prefabricated characters and elements is not permitted. Any software used to create an entry should only enhance and present the work, not to provide the primary design.
- **PowerPoint presentations are prohibited because most graphic elements of PowerPoint are copyrighted.**

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.

Any background music used in a film entry must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form by indicating **the title of the music, its composer and its performer(s)**. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Tips for Audio/Visual Quality

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.); and make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

Submission Instructions

- **Record production as an electronic file on 2 (two) CD/DVDs.**
- **Label both CD/DVDs with the title of your artwork, arts category, and division.**
- **Submit envelope to your PTA Reflections Chair containing your 2 (two) CD/DVDs and your student entry form.**

National PTA Reflections® Program Literature Rules

All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.

Description

Literature entries may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current National PTA 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.

Presentation & Format

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed.
- Include page numbers & include student name on back of each page.
- 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.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Do not mount or mat literature entries.

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 in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may print or type exact words as spoken by the student.
- 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 in English 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.

Submission Instructions: *Follow your State PTA guidelines regarding required submission format.*

A. Paper format of literary entry:

- **Submit literature works on 8.5 x 11 paper.**
- **Submit envelope to your PTA Reflections Chair containing the original entry plus 2 (two) paper copies of literature entry and your student entry form.**

All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.

Description

A music composition entry may be for voice, instruments or a combination of voice(s) and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed 5 minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections® Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. The recording submitted may capture performers in real-time or may make use of a sound library-generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant. 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.

The entry may not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software. Students are not to borrow from copyrighted material. Entries are judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Presentation & Format

- The music composition should directly relate to the theme.
- **Music recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.**
- Accepted files include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC.
- Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by the student's grade division.
 - **Primary and Intermediate Grade Divisions** do not require musical notation. Iconic notation ("made-up" notation) may be submitted.
 - **Middle and High School Grade Divisions** require notation, either traditional or tablature
- The composer is not required to perform his/her composition.
- A student's composed work may be performed by a group or may make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student participant.

Tips for Audio Quality

- Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the music is audible on the recording.
- 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.

Submission Instructions:

- **Record performance on 2 (two) CDs (save as electronic file, not as CD/DVD movie)**
- **Label both CDs with the title of your artwork, arts category, and division.**
- **If music score/notation is required, number pages on 8.5 x 11 paper. Do not mount or bind the scores.**
- **Submit envelope to your PTA Reflections Chair containing your 2 (two) CDs, score (if required) and your student entry form.**

National PTA Reflections® Program Photography Rules

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All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.

Description

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries are judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

The entry may incorporate such techniques as photomontage, 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.

Presentation & Format

- **A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including matting.**
- **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**.

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 exception:

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.

Submission Instructions: *Follow your State PTA guidelines regarding required submission format.*

A. Printed format of photo:

- Label back of artwork with your full name, arts category, division, and state.
- Submit to your PTA Reflections Chair your matted printed photo and an envelope containing your student entry form attached to the back of your photo.

All participants must also follow General Rules for Participation.

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. Entries are judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Presentation & Format

- 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.
- **Entries must not 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 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.

Works Not Accepted: Sculpture, ceramics and other three-dimensional artwork; Stained glass and jewelry, regardless of thickness; 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 art work 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.

Submission Instructions: *Follow your State PTA guidelines regarding required submission format.*

- Label back of artwork with your full name, arts category, division, and state.
- Submit to your PTA Reflections Chair your matted visual arts and your student entry form attached to the back

National PTA Reflections® Program Special Artist Division Rules

2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-5014

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The Special Artist Division of the National PTA Reflections® Program is optional at state and local levels. Please check with your State PTA regarding availability in your state of residence.

Student Eligibility:

The National PTA Special Artist Division is an option for students with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Generally, rules and guidelines within the Special Artists Division are intended to ensure accessibility to the National PTA Reflections® Program and are modeled after the guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who:

- (1) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person;
- (2) Has a record of such an impairment; or
- (3) Is regarded as having such an impairment.

Student Entry Process:

Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections® Program.

- **Option 1. Enter in Traditional Grade Divisions:** Qualifying students follow all arts category rules, and may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children, but do receive accommodation to submit Reflections entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. They are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.
 - **Grade Divisions:** Regardless of age, students with special needs may enter the National PTA Reflections® Program in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. The divisions are as follows:

○ Primary: preschool – grade 2	○ Middle School: grades 6 – 8
○ Intermediate: grades 3 – 5	○ High School: grades 9 – 12
- **Option 2. Enter in Special Artist Division:** Qualifying students entering this non-graded division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. At the national level, one Special Artist from across all arts categories will be selected to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award. Up to five additional Special Artists may be selected to receive national Awards of Excellence.
 - **Parent or Guardian Signature:** If a student's artwork that is submitted locally is selected to move on to the next level of the National PTA Reflections Program, the student and family will complete and sign a student entry form. A parent or guardian signature will be required for all students entering the program in the Special Artist Division, regardless of the student's age.
 - **Judging Procedure and Awards:** At the national level, Special Artist entries will be judged by expert judges in each arts category. The top Special Artist entry from each of the six arts categories will then be reviewed by Very Special Arts (VSA). One Special Artist from across all arts categories will be selected to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award and will be recognized at National PTA's Annual Convention. Up to five additional Special Artists may be selected to receive national Awards of Excellence.

National PTA Reflections® Program Special Artist Division Rules

Special Artist Accommodations and Guidelines:

Special Artists should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the Arts Category Student Rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

- **Allowable Accommodations:** Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non-exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:
 - The Special Artist Division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level
 - Use of adaptive technology is allowed
 - All submissions must be solely created by the Special Artist. However, a parent, teacher or other adult may assist the Special Artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.
- **Accommodations that are Not Allowed:** Individuals providing assistance to Special Artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:
 - Personally selecting a title for artwork
 - Writing, editing or interpreting a student's artist statement, story, poetry, or script
 - Choreographing a dance, composing music or writing lyrics
 - Drawing, painting or personally creating a visual arts submission; choosing a camera angle, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If a child's disabilities are such that his or her needs are handled in a therapeutic off-site school or via home schooling, can the child participate in the National PTA Reflections Program?

A. All students must participate in the National PTA Reflections® Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA 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 National PTA Reflections® Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Children who attend therapeutic or special needs schools, as well as students who are home-schooled, often remain assigned to a local "home" school. If their assigned "home" school PTA or PTSA program participates in Reflections, students assigned to but not attending these schools may submit Reflections entries through their local "home" school PTA or PTSA Reflections program.

Q. Can a student with special needs enter the Reflections Program as both a Special Artist and also in one of the traditional Grade Divisions?

A. No. A student can enter in more than one arts category, but may only enter in one grade division.

Q. What is VSA?

A. VSA, the international organization on arts and disability, was founded more than 35 years ago by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to provide arts and education opportunities for people with disabilities and increase access to the arts for all. When founded in 1974, the organization was named the National Committee - Arts for the Handicapped. In 1985 the name changed to Very Special Arts, and in 2010 it became VSA. In 2011, VSA merged with the Kennedy Center's Office on Accessibility to become the Department of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Q. Do Special Artist rules and guidelines apply to students who are gifted and talented?

A. No, Special Artist rules and guidelines apply only to students with physical, cognitive and mental health disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).