



2017-18 WCPTA REFLECTIONS OPTIONAL EDUCATORS GUIDE



THIS GUIDE WILL GIVE YOU INFORMATION ON HOW TO EXPLAIN THE PROGRAM AND PROCESS TO EDUCATORS. IT WILL ALSO HAVE INFORMATION FOR THE EDUCATORS TO REVIEW TO HELP PROMOTE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

This program can be run completely by PTA volunteers, however, teacher and educator participation in the PTA Reflections Program is always welcomed and encouraged! Students who study art are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and three times more likely to be awarded for school attendance. Multiple studies have also shown art education strengthens problem solving and critical thinking skills. With educators working hand in hand with Reflections coordinators, schools have higher participation rates with more pieces advancing to County/Council, State, and National levels than schools without educator participation.

How can school educators help their PTA Reflections Committee? Educators can promote the program by making weekly school announcements, giving students the current year's theme, discussing the program and rules in classrooms, allowing their classroom to be a drop-off location for completed artwork, make it a classroom assignment (rules apply-see below), remind students of deadlines, and so much more.

Can only art teachers support this program? All teachers are welcome to participate. For example, Literature can be used in all areas of education and the other art mediums can help students express their creativity and show their teachers how well they have retained classroom education lessons.

Can Special Education teachers participate in Reflections? Absolutely! The National PTA Reflections Program has a Special Artist Division option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. Educators with students wanting to participate using this division, may also promote and assign the program while following the General and Art Specific Rules and follow accommodations under the Special Artist rules.

******EDUCATOR PARTICIPATION****** See specific dates for your school at bottom of next page.

Please familiarize yourself with the General Rules and Art specific rules provided either digitally or via hard copy by your school's PTA Reflections Chair/committee. Please note that artwork is judged by artistic ability as well as current theme interpretation. It is **very** important that students explain how their piece fits the current theme under the Required Artist Statement (found below the required titled section). Without proper explanation of theme interpretation, judges will not be able to score the piece properly under the theme interpretation section.

Educators: What is the PTA Reflections Program? The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The program offers opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. Since the program was established over forty years ago, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength.

What is this year's theme? 2017-18 Theme is "Within Reach"

What are the six art categories? Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts (2D and 3D accepted).

Dates and contact information on next page. Thank you for supporting arts in education for your students!

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What grades may participate in the program? Students from Pre-K to 12th grade may participate. The age divisions are split into four: Primary (Pre-K - 2nd grade), Intermediate (3rd - 4th grade), Middle (6th - 8th grade), and High/Senior (9th -12th grade).

Students submit their artwork to the local school level PTA unit for initial judging. Winning entries will then advance to the County/Council level, followed by the State level, and State winners advance to Nationals.

What is the optional Theme Search Form? The theme used each year by the Reflections Program comes from students that participated in this optional portion of the program. Students can submit their theme idea using this form-sent directly to the NCPTA in mid-November. The student with the winning theme will receive \$100 and their theme will be announced at the annual National PTA Convention.

Educators promoting the program:

- Principals can promote by making weekly announcements about the program during school and phone messages. These can include due dates, where to find forms, artwork drop-off, and how to contact the chair. They can also give their staff the current theme and ask staff to incorporate it in their lessons.
- Teachers can discuss the theme in class by asking students about all the different ways they can interpret the current theme. You can also hold a brainstorming session with your class encouraging them to record the project ideas.
- If provided by your school's Reflections Committee, send home rules and forms with your students.
- Have students create promotional posters to display program information and dates around the school.
- Allow students to create a promotional video to be played on school TVs for peers to view.

Incorporating the program into your lesson plans:

- Encourage students to write about their interpretation of the theme.
- Assign students to write about current classroom lessons while incorporating the theme. All literary styles are welcome but it is vital that you review the Literature Rules.
- Allow students to create a project using any art category showcasing their creativity & lesson retention.
- Students are not required to turn their artwork in for judging, it is completely optional. If they do wish to submit their artwork for judging, ensure they turn it in with a completed entry form. Please do not give the student their grade until after the piece has been turned in for judging. Holding the grade until after artwork has been turned in will discourage students from altering artwork to enhance judging scores if they are not happy with their classroom grade. The Reflections judges should view the artwork in its original form regardless of classroom grade.

Details specific for your school's PTA Reflections Program

AFHS Artwork turn in location & date:

AFHS Reflections Artwork Due in Reflections Boxes by:

Reflections Chair Name & Email:

Visit our website or the county's website for rules and forms at:

Remember to contact your school's Reflections Chair for more details. Thank you for supporting arts in education for your students!