

THIS GUIDE WILL GIVE YOU SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ON HOW TO HOLD A SCHOOL LEVEL REFLECTIONS PROGRAM CELEBRATION. YOU MAY ALSO COME UP WITH OTHER NEW AND EXCITING IDEAS TO CELEBRATE YOUR PARTICIPANTS NOT FOUND IN THIS GUIDE.

One of the most rewarding parts of organizing and running the Reflections Art Program, is honoring all your participants with a school Reflections Celebration. Students have worked hard creating their master pieces, you as a chair have worked hard to advertise and organize judging, and your celebration is a great opportunity for community leaders, school educators, students, families and parents to view the results of this hard work while offering positive reinforcement for participation in the program. Remember to invite all participants regardless of placement to the celebration.

**“Why is student recognition important?”** *Celebrating student learning provides an opportunity for schools and families to connect with each other and to their community. When PTAs and schools celebrate the arts together, all families feel welcomed into the school and are encouraged to take an active role in their child’s learning. Research shows positive recognition and engaged families attribute to higher rates of student success. Celebration events also serve as a platform for communicating the importance of arts education in your school. Ensure school leaders, policy makers and community leaders recognize the value of learning through the arts.*  
*Courtesy of National PTA”*

### Celebration ideas:

- Presentations at general PTA and school meetings
- Ice Cream parties
- Student and parent brunch with the school principal
- School assembly
- Art gallery at the school, community centers, or halls

### Ways to promote and advertise your celebration and school winners:

- School/PTA website and newsletters
- School morning announcements and phone tree messages
- Local Newspaper
- Display artwork around your school: hang in hallways, display on shelves in media center or in award cases, display at local community centers, etc.
- Make announcements on social media
- Bulletin boards
- Have the school year book committee take pictures the participants and/or celebration to include in the year book. This is also a great idea to help you promote the program to students that may be unfamiliar with Reflections.

**Award ideas:** You may find local or online award shops or visit the National PTA Store online.

- Certificates – An edit and print version can be found on our website under the local chair tools section.
- Trophies
- Medals
- School merchandise
- Art supplies
- Ribbons



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### Things to keep in mind while planning:

- Plan logistics with your committee: date, time, location, promotion ideas.
- If possible display the artwork at your school for several weeks/months leading up to your celebration.
- Contact any planned event speakers or student performers and secure their presence at the event.
- Invite ALL participating students and their family, teachers, principals, PTA members, etc. You may want to consider inviting local art and community leaders to your celebration as well.
- When gathering event supplies make a checklist. Items may include awards, decorations, refreshments, audio/visual needs, chairs and reserved signs if needed, name badges, artwork, etc.
- Be sure to go over your celebration check list 24 hours before the event to make sure no items has been missed.

### Celebration Frequently Asked Questions:

#### Q. Do you have suggestions on where I can hold the school celebration?

A. You can hold your celebration in the media center, cafeteria, multipurpose room, classroom or auditorium at your school. You can also hold your celebration at local halls, community centers, or convention areas.

#### Q. Should I give students from my school any awards?

A. All students that participated (no matter how they placed) should receive an award of some type. The type of award you give is up to you and of course depends on your budget. Examples of awards some schools give: printed certificates, trophies, ribbons, medals, school merchandise, art supplies, etc. You may choose to give ribbons to those that place 1, 2, 3 and certificates to participants or choose to give all students regardless of placement the same type of award. It is up to you to pick the best option for your celebration.

#### Q. Who should hand out the awards at my school celebration?

A. As the Reflections Chair, you will normally find yourself at the microphone speaking and announcing winners. This may require that you have assistance handing out awards and shaking hands to congratulate students on their participation. It is always a good idea to invite your school principal to your celebration. If they plan to attend you may want to see if they would like to be involved in handing out awards. Other options can include your PTA president, art teacher or head of the art department, local community leaders, fellow Reflections committee members, etc.

#### Q. Do I have to invite students and guests with paper invitations?

A. With today's technology, there are many ways to send invitations to students, families, education and local leaders. You always have the option to mail invitations but you can also send invitations electronically through email, social media invites, or face to face in person. Choose the option that works best for your celebration and budget.

You are free to celebrate your PTA Reflections participants anyway that best fits your needs and budget. You are not limited by this guide. We would love to hear/see your celebration and/or ideas!