



The 2020-21 Reflections contest theme is "*I Matter Because...*"

Have you and your child ever wondered what the Reflections Contest is all about? It is an annual art contest sponsored by the National PTA. Who is eligible? Students must participate 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.

What are the age groups? Pre-K thru 2nd grade (Primary) and 3rd thru 5th grade (Intermediate). In addition, MS (6th-8th) and HS (9th-12th). Can my child enter more than one category? Yes. Students may submit multiple works of art, either in the same category or in multiple categories.

What are the different categories for entry? The categories for Reflections entries are: dance, film, music composition, literature, photography, visual arts and special artist.

How does my child participate? He or she creates an original "work of art" in one of the categories listed above. This is usually done outside of school time and without help from an adult.

How do we submit our entry? The student submission must include the Entry Form with a title and artist statement. The artist statement should communicate his or her inspiration for the work and how it relates to the theme. The statement must describe the content and include at least one sentence but not exceed 100 words.

Are there specifics about how to present the entry, especially for dance, video or musical composition? Yes, and there are too many specifics to name here for all categories. All the Reflections rules and guidelines for each category are on the Virginia PTA website (see web address below).

How are the winners selected? A panel of impartial judges rates each entry on three criteria: interpretation of the theme, artistic merit and mastery of the medium (with interpretation being the most important factor). First place winners will fill out an additional on-line entry form before their work is submitted to the next level of competition.

When are the winners announced? All Reflections participants will be recognized at a Recognition Ceremony, details to follow. Awards will be presented, and all the children will be recognized for their efforts. The first place winners will advance and be submitted to the Virginia Beach Citywide PTA to compete with winners from other VB schools. Winners advance through several levels until a national winner is selected in each category from each age group. Basic Reflections Guidelines: PLEASE REFER TO THE VIRGINIA PTA WEBSITE FOR ALL RULES (see web address below.) Photography submissions may not exceed 11"x14", including matting. Musical Composition recordings must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1 GB in file size. Video production must not exceed 5 minutes in length (AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG WMV, FLV). Literature submissions may be handwritten or typed. All submissions need a student entry form attached and the child's name on the back (no names on the front) of papers/items submitted. Special Artist Division is an optional division of the National PTA Reflections Program for students whose physical, cognitive or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines. Please check with Virginia PTA office regarding state availability.

If you have any questions or concerns, and for more information, you may refer to the Virginia PTA website at <https://vapta.org/programs/arts-and-education/reflections-top> or email Amber Sloan, VBPTA Vice President Programs, at sloanys4@cox.net.