

Poolsville High School PTSA Reflections Arts Program

Frequently Asked Questions / Submission Guidelines

What is the Reflections Arts Program?

The National PTA's Reflections arts program is a nationally recognized arts program which was founded in 1969. You can learn more about the program here:

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections>

Who Is Eligible to Participate?

All PHS students are eligible and encouraged to participate in this program. Please make sure you read the Official Rules, the General Guidelines, and the relevant Reflections Category Guidance to understand exact requirements for each submission. All rules (including the judging rubric) along with the Student Entry Form and Frequently Asked Questions are on the PHS PTSA website at:

<https://www.poolsvillehighschoolptsa.org/reflections>

Can I Submit Artwork in More Than One Category?

Yes! You can submit your original artwork in up to six categories. The categories are dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts.

How Do I Apply?

1. Review all Reflections arts program rules.
2. Create your original artwork with this year's theme "I Am Hopeful Because. . ." in mind.
3. Complete a Student Entry Form.
4. Submit your completed Student Entry Form and artwork virtually **no later than Sunday, December 10, 2023.**
 - a. If you are submitting a large file(s) (video, mp3, etc.), please save your Student Entry Form and artwork to a **non-MCPS Google drive** and upload using the Google Form link on the PTSA website: <https://forms.gle/oqYpvwKAwAyt33836>
If you do not have a non-MCPS Google account, please request a Dropbox file request link from PHS PTSA Reflections Committee Chair Kerri Sumlinski (sumlink@comcast.net).
 - b. Alternatively, you may email your Student Entry Form and artwork file(s) to the PHS PTSA Reflections Committee Chair Kerri Sumlinski (sumlink@comcast.net).
5. The Reflections Committee will send an email confirmation when your completed submission is received and reviewed.

NOTE: You must submit your Reflections entry using a **non-MCPS email address and/or a non-MCPS Google drive**. If you do not have access to a non-MCPS email, please contact PHS PTSA Reflections Committee Chair Kerri Sumlinski for assistance in submitting your entry.

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What Format Does My Submission Need to Be In?

Dance Choreography and Film Production entries must be submitted in MP4, MOV or AVI format.

Music Composition entries must be submitted in MP3 or WAV format.

Photography and Visual Arts entries must be submitted in JPEG, JPG or PNG format.

Literature and scores as required for Music Composition must be submitted in PDF format.

Please be sure to read the Official Rules and Guidance so you know the exact requirements for each category.

Should I Keep My Artwork After I Turn It in Digitally?

Yes! Normally artwork moving to the county and state levels is physically collected. However, this year the program will run virtually at the local school, county, and state levels.

What is the Theme?

The theme for this year's Reflections program is "I Am Hopeful Because. . ." **All artwork should be created with this theme in mind.**

Can I Submit a Piece I Created for Another Program / Contest?

No. All entries must be artwork inspired by the current year's theme and created expressly for the program. Artwork created and used for another competition or program may not be submitted.

Can I Use Artificial Intelligence Software to Create My Artwork?

No. Submissions may not be created using artificial intelligence software (such as Chat GPT, DALL-E rotor, hotpot AI, deep AI, Craiyon, nightcafe, or other text-to-art software tools) to generate any part of the content or composition. Content generation, including composition and arrangement, must be the result of student exercise of skills and tools. This does not preclude the use of image painting and editing software such as photoshop, gimp, paint or similar software tools to filter, crop, rotate, or adjust brightness / contrast or color for photography entries. Retouching or compositing may result in photography submissions being re-categorized from Photography to Visual Art.

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Use of Copyrighted Materials and Plagiarism

Use of Copyrighted materials is prohibited in entries submitted to the Reflections program. The exception is the use of music in Dance Choreography or Film Production entries if that music is credited on the student entry form. Incidental use of copyrighted images in the background of a film or photo is acceptable as long as the copyrighted image is not the focus of the entry. All artwork must be original.

How Is the Artwork Judged?

All submitted artwork is reviewed by volunteer judges who are professionals in the arts. Artwork is judged on three criteria:

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

Entries will be judged primarily on how well you interpret the theme of “I Am Hopeful Because. . .” Pay attention to what you write for your title and artist’s statement and use that to help the judges understand meaning and interpretation of your art and how it relates to the theme. **The artist’s statement can make the difference in a tie score and as part of the Interpretation of Theme score so be sure to spend time and give thought to carefully crafting your artist statement!**

Please be sure you have read and followed the Official Rules and Guidance to ensure that your submitted artwork conforms to the submission requirements.

Are There Prizes?

Yes! At the local level, all participants at PHS will be given certificates of participation. The top three (3) pieces of artwork in each category will be sent to the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) level for adjudication.

Honorees at the MCCPTA level will include Award of Excellence, Award of Merit and Honorable Mention. Winners from the County PTA level will be sent to the Free State PTA for judging.

Honorees at the Free State PTA level will include Award of Excellence, Award of Merit and Outstanding Interpretation. Winners from the State PTA level will move on to the National PTA judging.

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At the National level, the National PTA provides the following awards and prizes to its winners:

- **Merit Award:** Bronze Medal; Certificate of Merit; Work featured in the traveling exhibition
- **Award of Excellence:** \$200 Young Artist Scholarship; Silver Medal; Certificate of Excellence; Work featured in the traveling exhibition
- **Outstanding Interpretation Award:** \$800 Young Artist Scholarship; Medal; Certificate of Outstanding Interpretation; Work featured in the traveling exhibition; \$200 Prize for Local PTA Unit

What If I Still Have Questions?

If you have questions about this program, please contact the PHS PTSA Reflections Committee Chair Kerri Sumlinski (sumlink@comcast.net).