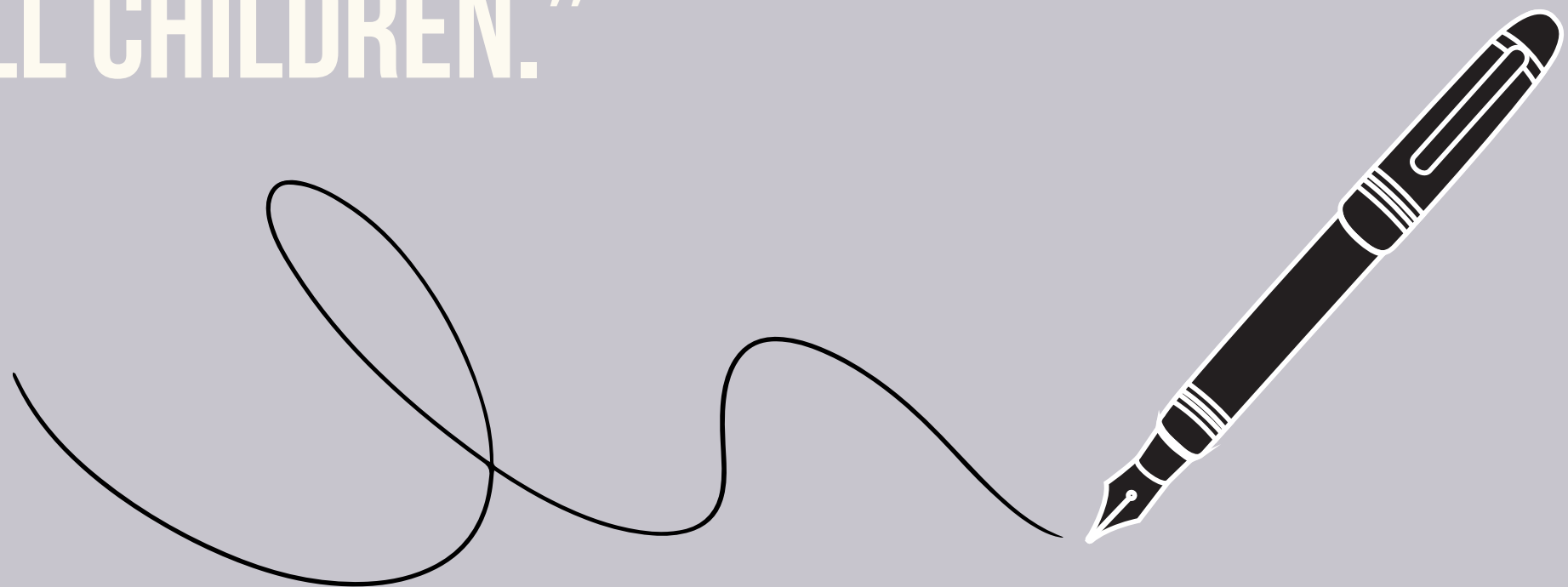National PTA Reflections

Florida PTA

every child. one voice.

2025-2026 Reflections Program

OUR MISSION

"TO MAKE EVERY CHILD'S POTENTIAL A REALITY BY ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR ALL CHILDREN."

FOUR FACTS ABOUT REFLECTIONS

Founded in 1969, PTA Reflections is known as our oldest and largest national student recognition program in the arts.

The program encourages children to reflect on a common theme and create original artwork in literature, visual and performing arts.
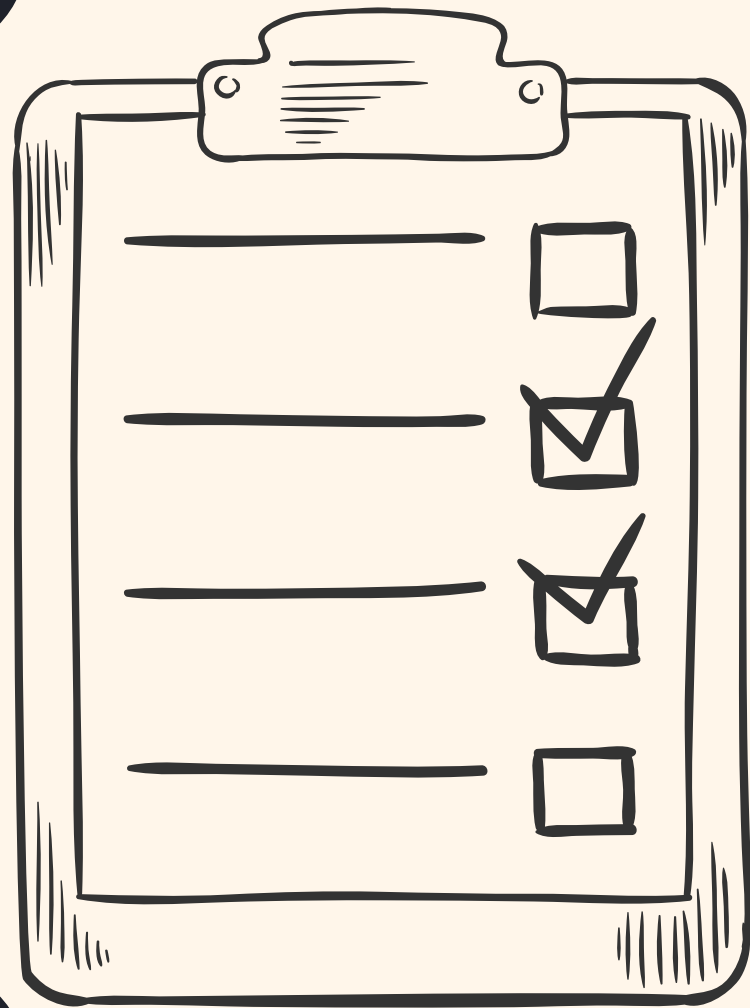
Each year, PTAs engage over 300,000 students and their families in Arts Education, and is a valuable tool for strengthening school-community partnerships.

Participation in arts programs, like PTA Reflections, plays a critical role in students' success by leveling playfields and developing students holistically.

LOCAL UNIT REFLECTIONS CHAIR DUTIES

The PTA Reflections program is now offered via a digital format. The general tasks for local unit Reflections leaders include:

Register your PTA's participation in this year's program with National PTA.

Distribute program materials.

Recruit volunteer judges – EARLY!!!

Collect entries & coordinate judging.

Advance top entries to the next level.

Celebrate & recognize students!

2024-25 SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

01 Local Units

Set your submission deadline in keeping with your County Council's or Region Reps' deadlines.

Sample Schedule

•Mid-October to mid-November – review entries and complete local judging

•Mid-November – Deadline to advance your winning entries to next level

Units in a council advance to council Reflections chair. Units not in a council advance to Region Reflections Chair.

02 County Councils

- County & Regional judging should be completed by December 2025.
- All entries must be uploaded by County Council Chairs to the National PTA Student Entry portal by **January 11, 2026** for State advancement.

Only County Council Relfections Chairs may upload advancements

State PTA

- March 1, 2026 – Entries that won at state level due to Nationals.
- Early April – State winners announced.
- State ceremony – TBD

03 National PTA

- May: National Reflections winners announced

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS THEME SEARCH CONTEST

The Reflections program theme is chosen each year from hundreds of suggestions submitted by students across the country.

Students at schools with a PTA in Florida, even if the PTA does not participate in the Reflections program, can submit their suggested themes. Submit themes to Florida PTA by October 17th. The Reflections Committee then selects the top 5 entries to be advanced to the National PTA.

One national winner is selected by the National PTA in February. The winning student receives a $100 award and national recognition.

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS®

Reflections Theme Search
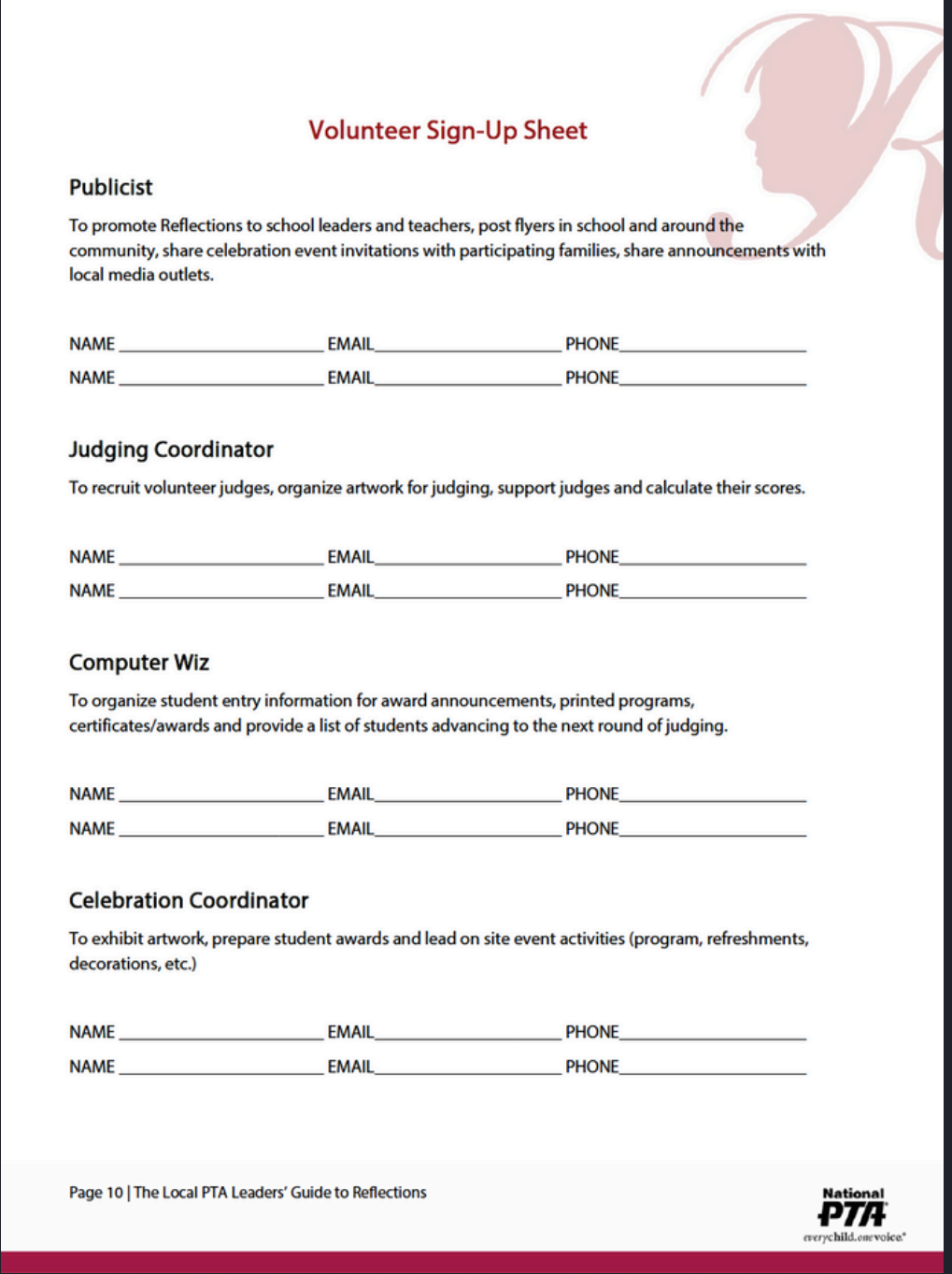
Your Idea Could Inspire the Nation!

STEP 1: REGISTER. CONNECT. RECRUIT.

- Register your PTA with National PTA Reflections program at PTA.org/Reflections (Local Units must be in compliance in order to participate in Reflections).
- Make sure your PTA is registered as participating in Reflections with the state office.
- Visit the Reflections pages on the Florida PTA website to get all details for our program
- Kick off your program by celebrating Art in Education!
- Recruit Volunteers for your Reflections Committee & delegate tasks:
  - ⭐ Promote Program
  - ⭐ Coordinate Judging
  - ⭐ Host Celebration Events

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

Publicist
To promote Reflections to school leaders and teachers, post flyers in school and around the community, share celebration event invitations with participating families, share announcements with local media outlets.

NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____
NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____

Judging Coordinator
To recruit volunteer judges, organize artwork for judging, support judges and calculate their scores.

NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____
NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____

Computer Wiz
To organize student entry information for award announcements, printed programs, certificates/awards and provide a list of students advancing to the next round of judging.

NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____
NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____

Celebration Coordinator
To exhibit artwork, prepare student awards and lead on site event activities (program, refreshments, decorations, etc.)

NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____
NAME _____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____

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STEP 2: CUSTOMIZE & DISTRIBUTE

All entries are to be submitted digitally to State.

Edit program materials to include:

- Available arts categories for participation
- Program deadlines
- Directions for submitting entries
- Distribute to program participants
- Student Entry Forms – Google form or paper
- Rules & Instructions

INCLUDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS IN THE STUDENT MATERIALS LIKE:

- CONTACT INFORMATION

- SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS (E.G., PHYSICAL VS. DIGITAL)

- ADDITIONAL RULES FOR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

ENTRY FORM 101

LOCAL UNIT REFLECTIONS CHAIRS MUST COMPLETE ALL FIELDS IN THE PTA BOX – IDEALLY BEFORE COPYING!

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURES (ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES OK)

TITLE (REQUIRED) & SUBMISSION DETAILS

STUDENT INFORMATION

SUBMISSION CATEGORY & GRADE DIVISION

ARTIST STATEMENT (REQUIRED)

ENTRY FORM

To be completed by PTA before distribution.

LOCAL PTA _____ LOCAL PTA ID ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

LOCAL PROGRAM CHAIR_____ EMAIL_____ PHONE_____

COUNCIL PTA_____ DISTRICT PTA_____ REGION PTA_____ STATE PTA____ Florida

MEMBER DUES PAID DATE _____ INSURANCE PAID DATE_____ BYLAWS APPROVAL DATE_____

STUDENT NAME _____ **GRADE** _____ **AGE** _____ **CLASSROOM** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____ **EMAIL** _____ **PHONE** _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ **PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE** _____

GRADE DIVISION (Check One)
☐ PRIMARY (Pre-K-Grade 2)
☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5)
☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)
☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)
☐ SPECIAL ARTIST (All Grades)

ARTS CATEGORY (Check One)
☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY
☐ FILM PRODUCTION
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION
☐ PHOTOGRAPHY
☐ VISUAL ARTS

TITLE OF WORK _____ **DETAILS** _____

If background music is used in **dance/film**, citation is required. Include word count for **literature**. List musician(s) or instrumentation for **music**. List dimensions for **photography/visual arts**.

ARTIST STATEMENT (In 10 to 100 words, describe your work and how it relates to the theme)
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STEP 3: COORDINATE JUDGING

Tap into the community around you when recruiting judges. Consider the following potential community members:

1. Having school or district administrators serve as judges to increase recognition of the program and the arts.
2. Local art professionals like art teachers, artists or art businesses people will have connections and can serve as special "celebrity" judges.
3. Former judges and Reflections advocates. Using kept records from past program years, reach out to reengage or find new volunteers.
4. Students and arts professors from local colleges and universities. These individuals may be looking for ways to get involved in their community.
5. Former state-level Reflections winners and recent graduates. These folks already know and love the program– recruit them and let them feel like experts themselves!

Reflections Reviewer Criteria

Criteria / Level	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Accomplished	Advanced
Interpretation	**1-8 pts.**	**9-16 pts.**	**17-24 pts.**	**25-32 pts.**	**33-40 pts.**
How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the Work itself and the artist statement.	The interpretation lacks clarity and does not communicate the student's concept.	The interpretation lacks clarity and does not fully communicate the student's concept based on the theme.	The interpretation communicates the student's concept based on the theme.	The interpretation clearly communicates the student's concept based on the theme but lacks meaning, purpose, and integrity.	The interpretation clearly communicates the student's whole concept based on the theme with meaning, purpose and integrity.
Creativity	**1-6 pts.**	**7-12 pts.**	**13-18 pts.**	**19-24 pts.**	**25-30 pts.**
How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.	Work is somewhat original and reflects the theme using very conventional ways.	Work is somewhat original and reflects the theme using conventional ways.	Work is original and reflects the theme using conventional ways.	Work is primarily original and reflects the theme using imaginative ways.	Work is highly original and reflects the theme using un-conventional, interesting, imaginative and new ways.
Technique	**1-6 pts.**	**7-12 pts.**	**13-18 pts.**	**19-24 pts.**	**25-30 pts.**
The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area.	Work demonstrates very limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates limited skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates capable skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates expertise of skill of the arts area.	Work demonstrates mastery of skill and knowledge of the arts area.

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STEP 4: ADVANCEMENT & CELEBRATE

Advancement:

Advance finalists to the next level according to Florida PTA guidelines and Deadlines.

1. Local Units are to send their top 3 entries in each category/division to County.
2. County Council are to advance top 3 entries in each category/division to Florida PTA by January 11, 2026 via National PTA Reflections portal. Portal may only be used by County Council Reflections Chairs and their committee members.

Celebrate your students:

- Assign awards by art categories and grade division.
- Announce winners on school websites and social media and tag
- Offer awards from ShopPTA.com and donated prizes from community supporters.
- Host a student recognition event for families.
- Showcase student works at school and in the community.

Social Media Tags

@Reflections

@FLPTAReflections

@FLPTA

@PTAReflections

#artsed

#showusyourart

STEP 5: DON'T FORGET TO WRAP-UP!

Make sure to thank students, parent leaders, school personnel, Judges, and community businesses for their support!

Return non-advancing works and contact students who are advancing in the competition.

Host a debrief with your volunteers committee.

Update your PTA/PTSA Executive board with results.

Record notes and contacts for next year's Reflections Chair.

ARTS CATEGORY & GRADE DIVISION OVERVIEW

All entries must be an original creation done by a single student for this year's Reflections theme.

Art Categories:

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

Grade Divisions:

- Primary: Pre-K thru Grade 2
- Intermediate: Grade 3 – 5
- Middle School: Grade 6 – 8
- High School: Grade 9 – 12
- Accessible Arts (ALL GRADES)
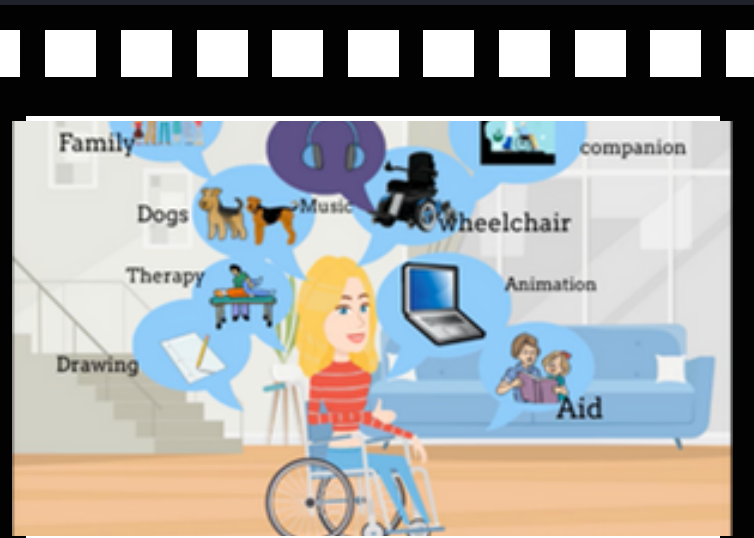
DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY CATEGORY

Key Points :

Solo and ensemble works of all dance styles are accepted. Entrant must be the choreographer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. If background music is used, cite it on the entry form.

Video Requirements :

- Length must not exceed 5 minutes
- File size 1000MB or less
- Accepted formats: AVI, MP4, MOV

FILM PRODUCTION CATEGORY

Key Points :

Accepted short film styles include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or media presentation. All screenwriting, directing and editing must be done by the student producer. If background music is used, cite it on the entry form.

Video Requirements :

- Length must not exceed 5 minutes
- File size 1000MB or less
- Accepted formats: AVI, MP4, MOV
- Use of PowerPoint is prohibited.

LITERATURE CATEGORY

Key Points :

Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: prose, poetry, reflective essay, screenplay, and play script, narrative, and short story. Entrants may write in their primary language if an interpretive English translation is also attached. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

Other Considerations:

- Must not exceed 2,000 words
- Must include word count on application form
- May be handwritten or typed
- Single-sided print on 8 ½x11" paper
- PDF file

Be Perfect

My Top Front Teeth

Accepting Imperfection

The Reality of Reflections

Perfect Illusion

Imperfectly Perfect

Embrace Yourself

The Perfectly Imperfect Cross
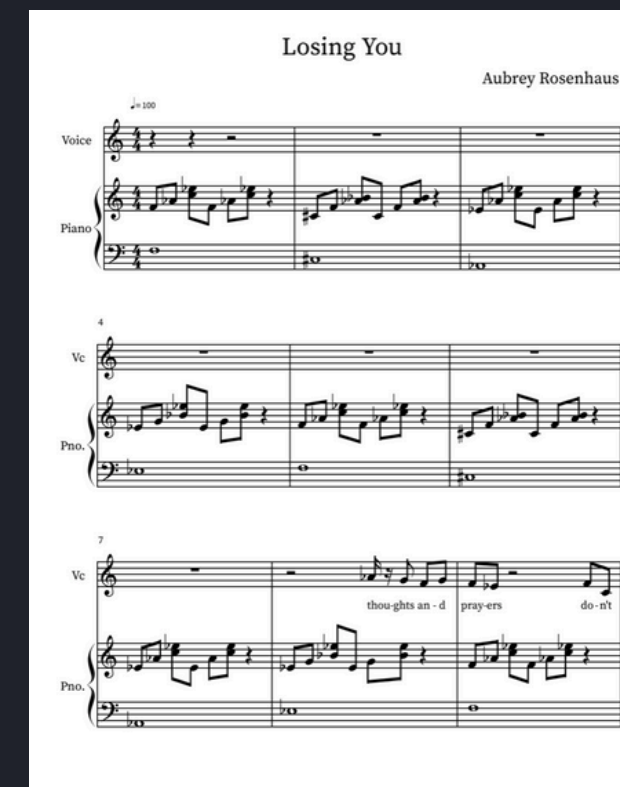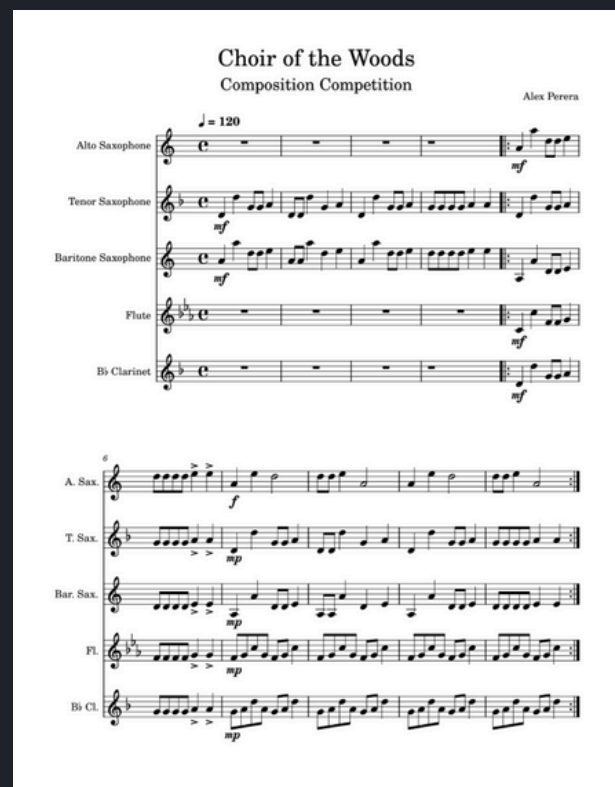
MUSIC COMPOSITION CATEGORY

Key Points :

All music styles and combinations of instrumentation are accepted. Entrant must be the composer and may also be the performer, or one of the performers. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

Audio/Video File Requirements:

- Length must not exceed 5 minutes
- File size 1000MB or less
- Acceptable file formats are: MP3 and WAV files
- Music Notation required for Middle and High School.

USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL IS PROHIBITED.
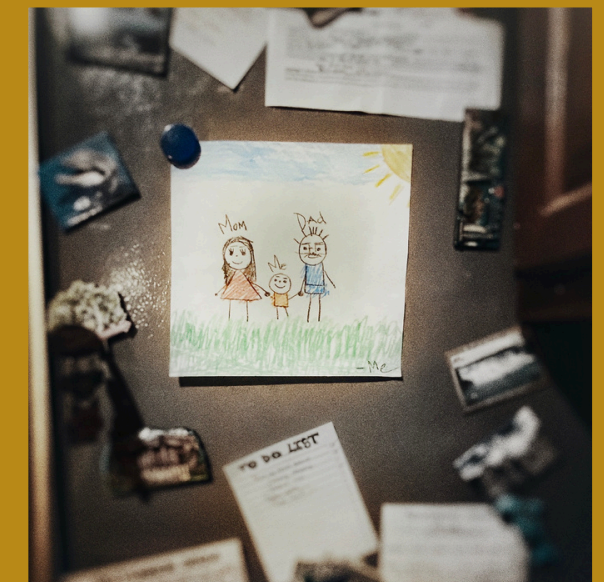
PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY

Key Points : Photo must be a single print/digital image. Collages or collections of photos are not accepted. Entrant must be the photographer & may use a variety of digital editing techniques including, but not limited to, multiple exposure, negative sandwich & photogram.

Prints:

- Must be no smaller than 5 x 7" & no larger than 8 x 10"
- Mounted on mat or poster board no larger than 11x14"
- Framed prints are not accepted
- Include one digital image of artwork with your submission (jpeg, jpg, png)

Digital Images:

- Dimensions must be at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi
- Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG

VISUAL ARTS CATEGORY

Key Points: Works of both fine and design arts are accepted, including but not limited to: architectural drawing & models, ceramics, collage, computer generated images, graphics, crafts, drawing, fashion, jewelry, fiber work, mixed media, painting, printmaking & sculpture.

2D Works:
- Mounted on sturdy material
- No larger than 12" x 16" with matting
- Framed entries are not accepted
- Include one digital image of artwork with your submission (JPEG, JPG, PNG).

3D Works:
- No larger than 12" x 12" x 12"
- Include 3 digital images of artwork at different angles.
- File formats accepted: JPEG, JPG, PNG).

ACCESSIBLE ARTS

Key Points: This Accessible Arts Division welcomes students from all grades and offers non-artistic accommodations for students to participate fully in PTA Reflections. Students who identify as having a disability and receive services under IDEA, ADA, or have an IEP; Section 504 may enter in the Accessible Arts Division OR grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities.

Accommodations:

- Non-artistic accommodations (e.g. adaptive technology; transcribing; holding a camera)
- Assistants must refrain from being involved in the artistic process (e.g. developing an artist statement, choreography, music lyrics, storyboards, etc.)

NATIONAL PTA ART GRANT

Throughout the year, National PTA offers **awards and grants** to honor or support PTAs as they engage families, support student success, improve the health and safety of students and families, increase access to arts education or celebrate advocacy and diversity. **Significant funding is available** to support local efforts for your students, families and community to participate in educational activities that are engaging, inspiring and fun.

Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant

The application process will close Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 11:59 p.m. PDT.
https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/artsedtools

Thank you for coming!

Florida
PTA®
every child. *one* voice.®