

REFLECTIONS

101



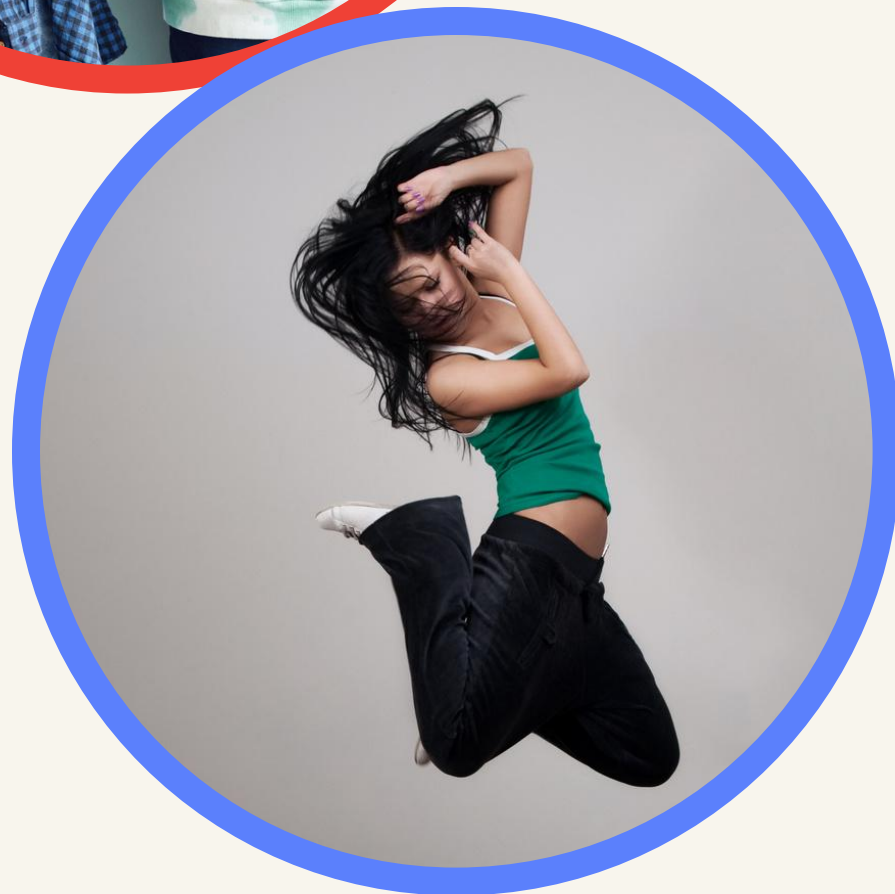
OUR MISSION

“To make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.”



WHAT IS REFLECTIONS?

- 50+ years, nation-wide
- Include students of all grade levels
- Different theme each year
- Original works of art
- Six fine arts categories
- Tiered structure: School winners - County Winners - State Winners -National Winners



HOW DOES REFLECTIONS BENEFIT THE STUDENTS?

01

CHAMPIONS THE FINE ARTS

While many schools are eliminating arts classes this provides an outlet for students to be creative and explore the arts

02

REACHES ALL STUDENTS

This program has provided a structured yet highly accessible platform for students of all ages and abilities

03

BOOST STUDENT CONFIDENCE

Students gain confidence and develop critical artistic literacy as they see their unique perspectives celebrated.

04

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The program brings together parents, educators, and local volunteers to celebrate student achievement, fostering a supportive school culture that values the whole child.

WHY SHOULD MY PTA PARTICIPATE?



ABUNDANCE OF RESOURCE MATERIALS

Being a National PTA program, many resources are provided. Other resources are available on a national and state level through Facebook groups as a great way to get ideas from what other units are doing.



SCALABILITY

The program can be scaled to what your local unit feels like it can manage. You can choose to only offer one or two categories, and the program can grow as the local leaders feel more confident.



LOW BUDGET NEED

Reflections can be run on a very low budget. Local chairs could reach out to local business sponsors to offset costs if desired.

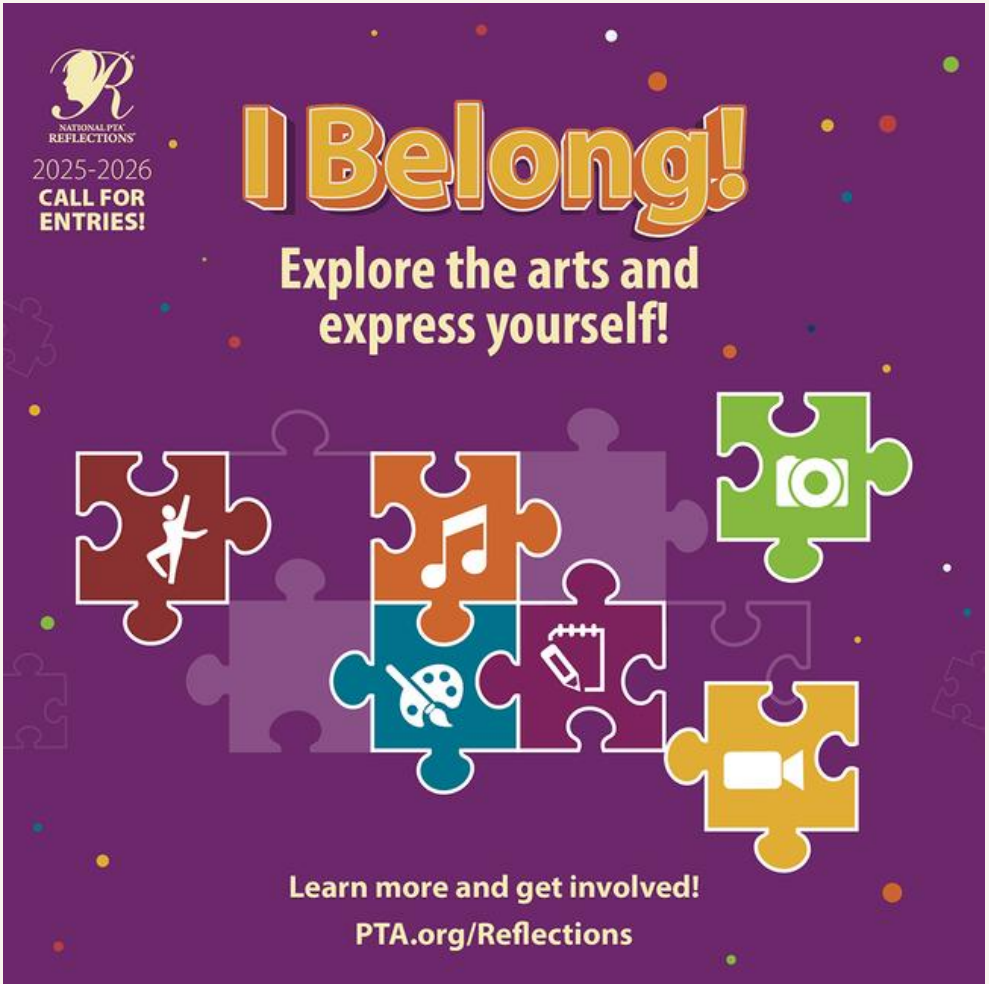


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKING PARENTS

Much of the Reflections program is handled behind the scenes or outside of school so this provides a great opportunity for working parents.



REVIEW OF REFLECTIONS 25/26



Florida PTA NATIONAL WINNERS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Name	PTA Name	County	Division	Category
David List	Waters Edge Elementary PTA	Palm Beach	Intermediate	Visual Arts
Eva Plum	Galileo Skyway Middle School PTSA	Seminole	Middle School	Photography

AWARD OF MERIT

Name	PTA Name	County	Division	Category
Adaline Bevill	Florida Virtual School	Seminole	Middle School	Dance Choreography
Elliott Grace Leung	Sanders Memorial Elementary PTA	Pasco	Primary	Literature
Amy Smith	LaVilla School of the Arts PTSA	Duval	Middle School	Literature
Chloe Moo	Seminole High School PTSA	Seminole	High School	Music Composition
Mia Xhafa	Elisa Nelson Elementary PTA	Pinellas	Primary	Visual Arts
Jae'Lee Elcock	Hagerty High School PTSA	Seminole	Accessible Arts	Visual Arts



- Over 900 students participated at the County level
- 146 students were recognized with State level awards
- 8 Florida students recognized for awards at the National level

THIS YEAR'S THEME

"What My Culture Means to Me" asks students to think about culture not only as something they inherit, but also something they live, celebrate, question and share. It encourages them to consider the people, places, traditions and values that have shaped their lives, and then to share those reflections through the arts.



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

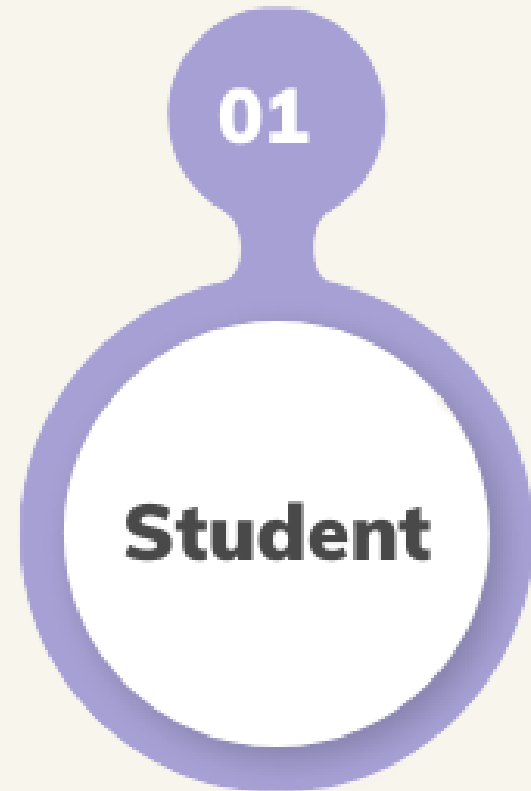
Grade Divisions:

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



THE REFLECTIONS PROCESS

Artwork and student entry form submitted to Local PTA/PTSA.



Local unit has judges review all student artwork and determines top three by category and division, which are then advanced to the county level

County Council collects finalists from all local units in the county and repeats the review process. The finalists are then advanced to the state level



FLPTA collects finalists from all County Councils in the state and repeats the review process. The Excellence award winners are then advanced to the national level



National PTA collects finalists from all states the review process and determines National winners.



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).
- 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

- Plan ahead- all entries will 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 – Digital 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

LOCAL PTA / PTSA UNITS

PDF ENTRY FORM 101

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

**STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURES
(ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES OK)**

ACCESSIBLE ARTS SELECTION


**NATIONAL PTA
REFLECTIONS®**

Local PTA Information			
LOCAL PTA		NATIONAL PTA ID	
LOCAL PROGRAM CHAIR		EMAIL	

STUDENT NAME		GRADE	AGE
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S)		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. Signatures (typed or handwritten) are required for all entries.

STUDENT SIGNATURE (Required for all entries) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (Required for all entries) _____

CATEGORY AND DIVISION (All entrants must select a grade-level division and arts category.)	GRADE DIVISION (Check one) ☐ PRIMARY (PreK-Grade 2) ☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5) ☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8) ☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)	ARTS CATEGORY (Check one) ☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ☐ FILM PRODUCTION ☐ LITERATURE ☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION ☐ PHOTOGRAPHY ☐ VISUAL ARTS
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ACCESSIBLE ARTS DIVISION PARTICIPATION

Students who identify as having a disability and may receive services under IDEA or ADA: Section 504 may also select to participate in the Accessible Arts Division to receive division-specific accommodations and non-artistic accommodations as outlined in the division guidelines. Participating students may use the "Additional Details" field to provide information about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (10 to 100 words, optional). Participating students compete against other students in the division and are awarded as part of the division. See division guidelines for details.

☐ I will participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

☐ I will NOT participate and compete in the Accessible Arts Division.

ARTWORK DETAILS (As relevant or required based arts category and/or division)

Medium and Materials (Visual Arts)		Dimensions (Visual Arts/ Photog.)	
Word Count (Lit.)		Editing software, if used. (All categories)	
Cite background music, if used. (Dance/Film)		List musician(s) or instrumentation (Music)	

PDF ENTRY FORM 101

TITLE (REQUIRED)
SHOULD BE UNIQUE - NOT JUST THE THEME

ADDITIONAL DETAILS- THIS IS WHERE
THE STUDENT CAN NOTE IF ANY
TECHNOLOGY WAS USED, AND
ACCESSIBLE ARTS ENTRIES CAN
PROVIDE DETAILS OF THEIR
ACCOMODATIONS



TITLE (Required for all entries)

ARTIST STATEMENT (Required for all entries) In 10 to 100 words, describe your work and how it relates to the theme.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS If technology is used, describe the platform's use in the creation process, including any generative elements (required for all entries, 10 to 50 words). Students participating in the Accessible Arts Division may provide details about how their disability and/or support needs impacted their entry (Optional, 10 to 100 words).

PTA Reflections Program Student Entry Packet | Page 4

National
PTA
every child. one voice.

ARTIST STATEMENT (REQUIRED)
10-100 WORDS- THIS SECTIONS IS WHERE
THE STUDENT IS ENCOURAGED TO
CONNECT THE ARTWORK TO THE THEME

DIGITAL ENTRY FORM– NEW!!

National PTA now supports the use of a digital entry form

- reduces the risk of incorrect information due to handwriting or transferring of data.
- helps to ensure that the student art files are the correct type
- Florida PTA is providing templates for Google and Jotform- instructions will be on <https://www.floridapta.org/reflections-art-program/>
- Please note with the Google form template- the local unit /county council must add in the File Upload questions so that the files are stored in your units Drive

Instructions for using the Google Form Student Entry Template

These instructions are for Local PTA/PTSA units wanting to use the provided Student Entry Form Google Template. Please note that for successful forms which include uploading the entry file to be completed and uploaded properly for the local unit chair to access, both steps below must be completed.

Step 1: Copy the Form

You must copy the form using the links and directions below. This process allows you to create your own version of the Google Entry without editing the original copy and ensures the responses you receive are easily accessible and private for your PTA's use.

Follow these instructions to copy the Student Entry Form template:

1. Click the url of your choice and copy it exactly as outlined below.
2. Paste the link into the url of your browser. *Note: If you are not signed into a Google account, you will be prompted to sign in.*
3. On the page that appears, choose "Make a copy"

English Student Entry Form Template

Copy and paste this link into your url:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vinnGqWg-JwT_ALccPnvjMbKVM5fFb4UBrYJJy19yk/copy

Spanish Student Entry Form Template

Copy and paste this link into your url:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rXyXv2GfTYY4pxo_v6AkRU06OADDHdoU4paZ7CQl7Ss/copy

How to Edit the Form

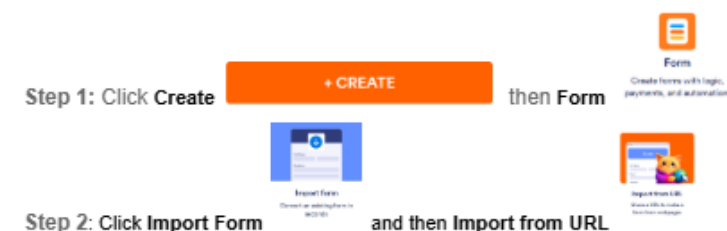
Once you create your copy, you must prepare the form to collect entries from the students in your community by updating each of the Arts Category sections.

1. You may change the header graphic if you choose. Edit information in the form description section as it pertains to your local unit.
2. It may be useful to add additional questions to help find your student if needed. For example: Classroom teacher/Homeroom teacher/Student ID
3. You may (but do not have to) remove answer options that do not apply to your local unit
 - a. For example, you may remove the grades that don't apply to your school, divisions that don't apply or any categories your unit is not accepting.
 - b. Be aware that the division and category questions have conditional logic to lead the respondent to the proper next section, so you would need to remove the applicable next sections as well.
4. Each Category is in a separate section- Sections 5-10. For each category you plan to accept, you will need to add a File Upload question. This ensures the files you receive are saved in your PTA Google Drive. |

Instructions for using the JotForm Student Entry Template

These instructions are for Local PTA/PTSA units wanting to use the provided Student Entry Form Jotform Template. There is not a separate Spanish template, rather at the top of the form the respondent will be able to select Spanish or Portuguese and the form will update.

Log into jotform.com or create an account



Step 3: Copy and paste this url <https://form.jotform.com/262376394995173>

The form is now in your account, ready to be modified if needed. Rename the form to apply to your local unit.

Step 4: Edit the form as desired. You may change the header graphic and edit information in the form description section as it pertains to your local unit. Ensure that the form has all the questions you wish to ask.

- You may edit or remove the additional questions of Classroom teacher/Homeroom teacher/Student ID, but we have found those to be useful when needing to reach the student later.
- You may (but do not have to) remove answer options that do not apply to your local unit
 - For example, you may remove the grades or divisions that don't apply to your school or any categories your unit is not accepting.
 - Be aware that the division and category questions have conditional logic to lead the respondent to the proper next section, so you would need to remove the applicable next questions as well.
- In the Settings tab at the top, under Form Settings you can change the date to disable your form to your local unit deadline.

Step 5: Go to the Publish tab and copy your form link to share with your students and families.

Please note: There are some limitations with the free version of jotform. You may choose to upgrade according to the number of submissions you will receive. There is a non-profit discount as well. To save on some expense, you can upgrade for the month that you are accepting submissions, then you can revert back to the free version and continue to access your data. |

STEP 3: COORDINATE JUDGING

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

- Avoid having teachers or parents from the school
- Local art professionals like art teachers, artists or art businesses people will have connections and can serve as special “celebrity” judges.
- Former judges and Reflections advocates. Using kept records from past program years, reach out to re-engage or find new volunteers.
- Students and arts professors from local colleges and universities. These individuals may be looking for ways to get involved in their community.
- 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!



Award of
Excellence



Award of
Merit



Honorable Mention

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 unconventional, 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:

- Local Units are to send their top entries in each category/division to County. Check with your County Council to find out how many you can advance and their process for advancing the entries. Check the FL PTA website to see your county's deadline for advancing entries.
- Submit Forms A & B to County Council
 - Form A helps us to understand participation statistics
 - Form B lists your advancing students for the next level to reference
- National PTA 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!
- If you collected physical artwork, 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.

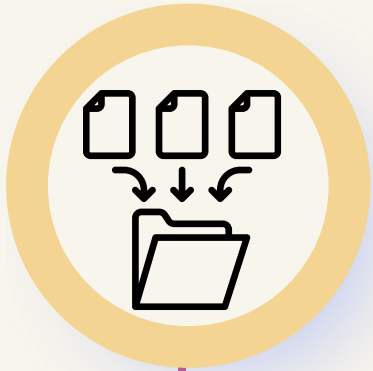


REFLECTIONS TIMELINE



AUG-SEPT

REGISTER YOUR
SCHOOL, SET YOUR
SCHOOL DEADLINE
AND ROLL OUT
YOUR PROGRAM



OCTOBER

COLLECT STUDENT
ENTRIES AND
PREPARE
FOR JUDGING



EARLY NOVEMBER

HAVE YOUR JUDGING
COMPLETED AND
DETERMINE SCHOOL
WINNERS



NOVEMBER 20

SUBMIT YOUR TOP
THREE ENTRIES PER
ART CATEGORY AND
AGE DIVISION



DECEMBER/JANUARY

CELEBRATE YOUR
PARTICIPANTS,
RECOGNIZE YOUR
WINNERS



STEP 1

- SET YOUR COUNTY DEADLINE
- PROMOTE THE REFLECTIONS PROGRAM
- ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL UNITS

County Councils



STEP 2

- HOST INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS
- ASSIST LOCAL UNITS AS NECESSARY
- RECRUIT POTENTIAL JUDGES
- ESTABLISH YOUR PROCESS FOR ACCEPTING ADVANCING ENTRIES FROM THE LOCAL UNITS



STEP 3

- HAVE YOUR JUDGING COMPLETED AND DETERMINE COUNTY WINNERS
- ENSURE PARTICIPATING UNITS ARE IN COMPLIANCE

County Councils



STEP 4

ADVANCE TOP 3 ENTRIES IN EACH
CATEGORY/DIVISION TO FL PTA BY JAN 11, 2027
VIA NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS PORTAL.

(PORTAL MAY ONLY BE USED BY COUNTY COUNCIL
REFLECTIONS CHAIRS AND THEIR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.)



STEP 5

CELEBRATE YOUR PARTICIPANTS,
RECOGNIZE YOUR COUNTY WINNERS

CHANGES THIS YEAR

Updated Materials

- Entry Form: Yes/No Accessible Arts Question A “no” option was added to opt-in question for the Accessible Arts division. This aims to further clarify the division’s purpose for participants.
- Film Production Clarifications Clarifying language was added to the Film Production guidelines regarding the use of digital slide presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) and original footage. "All entries must include original student footage/media/material. Digital slide presentations (PowerPoint) are not allowed."
- Leader Guides and Checklists Basic updates and enhancements were made to the digital guides and checklists for PTA Leaders and State Leaders to improve accessibility and relevance for leaders.

On Hiatus

- National Theme Search Contest There will be no Theme Search Contest during the 2026-2027 program cycle. During the hiatus, National PTA will develop an updated contest structure and process to improve overall efficiency and contest participation.

HELPFUL LINKS

NATIONAL PTA



FLORIDA PTA



STUDENT ENTRY FORM



FL REFLECTIONS FB GROUP



LOCAL LEADERS CHECKLIST



PTA STORE



THANK YOU!



Scan for brainstorming worksheets to help
your students get their creative juices
flowing!

DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS!

Erin Monaghan

Email: reflections@floridapta.org

<https://www.floridapta.org/reflections-art-program/>