What Is Reflections?

For over 50 years, the National PTA Reflections program has provided access to and opportunities for recognition in the arts, which boosts student confidence and success. By creating original works of art in response to a student-selected theme, participants explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning. Students participate in the division most appropriate for them (i.e., Primary, Intermediate, Middle School, High School, Special Artist) and create in the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

As a tiered arts recognition program, winning student artworks from the local PTA level are eligible to move up through their district, region, council and state PTA programs to the national level. National PTA Reflections winners are announced in May and celebrated throughout the following year.

Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools nationwide, the 2020-2021 I Matter Because... Reflections program was a great success. Thanks to the incredible leadership of Reflections Chairs across the country, nearly 900 student works of art from 44 states progressed to the national level for review. After two rounds of review by arts professionals, over 200 students from 38 states received a national level award.

National PTA Outstanding Interpretation Winners

Mark Wagner
Special Artist Division—Dance Choreography.
Dana Hills High School PTSA, California

Maeryn Elizabeth Jacob
Middle School Division—Photography.
Lawton Chiles Middle School PTSA, Florida

Sydney Ware
High School Division—Dance Choreography.
Dekalb School of the Arts PTSA, Georgia

Zoe Caraballo
Middle School Division—Film Production.
Green Township PTA, New Jersey

Joshua Johnson
Middle School Division—Literature.
Bennion Jr. High PTSA, Utah

Claire Moon
Middle School Division—Visual Arts.
Rachel Carson Middle School PTA, Virginia

Johan Novak
Middle School Division—Music Composition.
Odle Middle School PTSA, Washington

National-Level Submissions by Arts Category

- Dance Choreography: 20%
- Visual Arts: 18%
- Photography: 14%
- Film Production: 14%
- Literature: 15%
- Music Composition: 14%

National-Level Submissions by Division

- Special Artist (all grades): 8%
- Primary (Pre-K through Grade 2): 23%
- Intermeate (Grades 3-5): 26%
- Middle School (Grades 6-8): 23%
- High School (Grades 9-12): 20%
Registration Data
*Each year, we invite PTAs of all levels to register for Reflections to demonstrate the wide reach and impact of the program. Please note, this data provides just a snapshot of the total program participants across the nation.

49 States Participating in Reflections Across all PTA Levels

Top 5 State PTAs with Highest Percentage of Registered PTAs Based on State Membership Size
- 54% Utah of state membership
- 44% Wyoming of state membership
- 38% Europe* of state membership
- 31% Michigan of state membership
- 29% Washington of state membership

*The European PTA supports Department of Defense schools overseas.

37% Local PTA Participation in Title 1 Schools

School Size Breakdown of Registered Local PTAs
- 28% Small (<500 Students)
- 49% Medium (500-999 Students)
- 23% Large (>1,000 Students)

11% Local PTAs Participating for the First Time

School Grade Level Breakdown of Registered Local PTAs
- 59% Elementary
- 19% Middle
- 14% High
- 4% K-8
- 4% Other

How Registered Local PTAs Discovered the Reflections Program
- 41% Other Local PTA Leaders
- 20% Region PTA
- 12% State PTA
- 10% School Staff
- 9% National PTA
- 7% Other
- 1% Media

Dance Choreography
Music Composition
Film Production
Photography
Visual Arts

Testimonials from Local PTAs

“The Reflections program is my favorite PTA program. I love that it gives students a chance to create and express themselves in a positive way.”
–West Point Jr. High PTSA, Utah

“Art in any form is a means for children to express themselves, which has never been more important as it is today, considering all the things our country and world are experiencing.”
–California Elementary School PTA, California

“I believe that the arts are a vital part of education, and that with the mental health concerns brought on by COVID-19, the freedom of expression offered by the Reflections program is more important than ever before.”
–Yorktown Elementary Magnet School PTA, Virginia

Register and learn more at PTA.org/Reflections.
Questions? Email Reflections@PTA.org.

BAND
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