

REFLECTIONS

“WOW...”

2008-2009



Maryland
PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

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Maryland

State PTA "Reflections"

Chairpersons

2008-2009

If I am a local unit Arts Chair, what do I do?

Be familiar with the *Arts Area Rules, Maryland PTA Checklist*, the *Maryland PTA Participation Form*, and the deadline to Maryland PTA (postmarked by January 2, 2009). *See recommended ideas on Maryland PTA's website: <http://www.mdpta.org/>.

Set a deadline for local entries. Keep in mind the State deadline for submission (January 2, 2009).

Copy and distribute *Promotional flyers and Arts Area Rules and Student Entry Form* to students in your school and/or community. Type or print your name, address, phone number, and email address on each sheet before copying for distribution. There are many occasions where communication is necessary and this information becomes vital.

Have entries judged: Finding judges: Sources of judges may include: Art, literature, dance, film, journalism, and music educators or college/university professors • Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians Professional photographers and local artisans, Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, or composers, Local dance conservatories, dance studios, ballets, or theaters Local multimedia/video production companies, Newspaper journalists, editors, or photographers, Local television stations, Arts advocacy organization presidents or directors. Inviting professionals in the arts or influential community leaders to participate in Reflections Program judging increases the exposure of the PTA, its work, and the wonderful benefits students derive from participating in the arts. Other Rules to know: If a judge knows a student participants artwork, the judge should remove himself or herself from the judging process for that particular arts area to prevent a conflict of interest. Teachers from the host school serving as judges would also have a conflict of interest, so it is better to invite teachers from another school that offers the Reflections Program.

Give local awards and certificates of participation to all and make announcements to schools as well as publications. Return all artwork (to those students whose artwork was not selected.)

Send three (3) entries per category, the original Student Entry form signed by the students, the *Maryland PTA Requirements Checklist 08*, and the *Local Participation Form* to the Maryland PTA Reflections Chair postmarked on or before the deadline January 2, 2009. All submissions **MUST** be received by date to be considered for judging.

Maryland State PTA “Reflections”

PROGRAM THEME:

2008 - 2009 “WOW!”

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

The Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength. The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools and communities is unmatched.

Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis.

Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. Depending on local PTA guidelines, students may enter more than one work of art. The six arts areas are as follows:

- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts
- Dance Choreography
- Film/Video Production

Participation in the Reflections Program is organized by school grade. Student works are critiqued against others in the same grade division. This allows recognition and judging of artworks by appropriate developmental age and skill levels. The four grade divisions are as follows:

- Primary Preschool Grade 2 or up to age 7
- Intermediate Grades 3-5 or ages 8-10
- Middle/Junior Grades 6-8 or ages 11-13
- Senior Grades 9-12 or ages 14+

The Reflections Program is structured for PTAs to recognize students at the local unit, council, PTA district, state and national levels. Entries are first judged at the local unit level, where selected works are chosen to represent the PTA at each subsequent level. Once entries reach the level of the Maryland State PTA, entries may be selected for submission to the National PTA. Award of Excellence and Awards of Merit are recognized at the annual National

PTA convention and are displayed as part of the program's traveling exhibit.

Participation in the Maryland Reflections program is open to all students in attendance at PTA/PTSA schools where the program is sponsored. Entries are forwarded through channels. Each unit, council and PTA district establishes their own deadline dates, allowing adequate time for displaying and judging of entries. PTA units should acquire deadline dates from their council and PTA district. Only PTA districts may submit entries to the Maryland State PTA.

Please remember that:

- Students may submit entries only through a PTA or PTSA in good standing.
- All entries submitted must be original works and must relate to the annual Reflections Program theme.
- Each entry must be the work of only one student. Assistance from teachers, parents or friends is not permitted except in special cases (such as for those with visual or physical disabilities)

Participation encourages creativity and exploration. Students should do their best, but crooked lines, incorrect musical notes, or misspelled words do not disqualify anyone.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Familiarize yourself with the materials on the Maryland State PTA Web site at <http://www.mdpta.org/>, the National PTA Web site at www.pta.org and the Reflections Packet sent to presidents in the summer service mailing.
- Develop a Reflections Program planning calendar using council and PTA district deadlines; identify key steps to meet your calendar deadlines. (Note that this program runs early in the school year for local units, therefore you may have to work around athletic events when planning your calendar.)
- Submit a Reflections Program budget to the budget committee for approval.
- Explain the Reflections Program to the principal and school staff; encourage their support and participation. Inform parents and community members. Share information about the Reflections Program at a PTA/PTSA meeting, share examples of last year's entries and have current entry forms and rules for distribution.
- Publicize the Reflections Program, theme and deadline dates in your school or PTA/PTSA newsletter. The local newspapers or cable TV station could also be contacted for publicity.
- Select impartial, qualified judges. Inform judges of the criteria to be used in evaluating/judging Reflections Program entries. (Refer to the rules for each art category.) Remember to accept the judges' selections of winning entries. **IMPORTANT:** Do not show student information (name, address, etc.) on entries displayed for judging.
- Follow guidelines from council and PTA district regarding the number of entries which may be submitted. Adhere to council and PTA district deadlines!
- Make certain each entry meets all judging criteria with regard to size, mounting, etc.
- Be sure the Official Entry Form (Forms Section) is completely filled out, signed by both student and parent, and attached securely to each entry, according to the National PTA rules.
- Complete and send Participation Form A (Forms Section) with entries according to National PTA rules.

- Keep a copy of all Official Entry Forms and Participation Form A.
- After the program, give each participant a certificate of participation.
- Return entries to students whose work was not selected for the next level of judging.
- Update the Reflections Program procedure book.
- Announce the new Reflections Program theme as soon as it is available. The theme is announced at the annual Maryland State PTA convention.
- Publicize any awards given to local students at other levels of judging.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Hold a Reflections Program workshop or a Family Arts Night on Saturday, after school or at lunch for students to work on their projects and provide supplies.
- Enlist support of local businesses for supplies, awards and to display Reflections Program entries.
- Ask stores in your area to print student art work on their bags.
- Inquire with local businesses that print calendars about possible use of student art work.
- Plan a local traveling art show.
- Print a Reflections Program Awards booklet listing the program participants as well as the award recipients. Acknowledge those who supported the program including parents, staff and community members.
- Display local entries in school (e.g., hallways, display case, library), at PTA functions, in local community buildings (e.g., libraries, museums, banks, hospitals, nursing homes)
- Publish student entries in a special Reflections Program booklet or calendar and award it to Reflections Program participants, give as a gift or as a thank you to judges, teachers and volunteers.
- Tape musical compositions, dance choreography, and film/video production entries and play them at PTA functions and school events. Give a copy to a local radio station/cable television station to play.
- Organize a special program/reception/assembly where Reflections Program photography and visual arts entries can be displayed, musical composition entries can be performed and literature entries can be read aloud, and dance choreography and film/video production entries can be played.

Make all Reflections Program entrants feel special. Consider awarding students with certificates, ribbons, medallions, buttons, plaques, trophies, art supplies, film, music supplies, gift certificates, books, bookmarks, symphony tickets, or other items that encourage future participation in the arts. Send congratulatory letters to students.

FINDING JUDGES

- Art, literature, dance, film, journalism, and music educators or college/university professors
- Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program
- Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians

- Professional photographers and local artisans
- Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, or composers
- Local dance conservatories, dance studios, ballets, or theaters
- Local multimedia/video production companies
- Newspaper journalists, editors, or photographers
- Local television stations
- Arts advocacy organization presidents or directors

Q & A

If I am a student and want to submit an entry, what forms do I need?

Student Entry Form received from your Local Unit Reflections Chair

1. Student created entry per the rules

You should read and follow the General Student Participation Rules, as well as the specific Arts Area Rules for your work before creating and submitting an entry.

If I am a local unit Arts Chair, what do I do?

- Be familiar with the *Arts Area Rules*, *Maryland PTA Checklist*, the *Maryland PTA Participation Form*, and the deadline to Maryland PTA (postmarked by date, received no later than date). *See recommended ideas on Maryland PTA's website: <http://www.mdpta.org/>
- Set a deadline for local entries. Keep in mind the State deadline for submission (date).
- Copy and distribute *Promotional flyers and Arts Area Rules* and *Student Entry Form* to students in your school and/or community. Type or print your name, address, phone number, and email address on each sheet before copying for distribution. There are many occasions where communication is necessary and this information becomes vital.
- Have entries judged: Finding judges: Sources of judges may include: Art, literature, dance, film, journalism, and music educators or college/university professors • Teachers from other schools participating in the Reflections Program Art museum directors, docents, curators, or historians Professional photographers and local artisans, Local symphony orchestra or choral directors, musicians, conductors, or composers, Local dance conservatories, dance studios, ballets, or theaters Local multimedia/video production companies, Newspaper journalists, editors, or photographers, Local television stations, Arts advocacy organization presidents or directors. Inviting professionals in the arts or influential community leaders to participate in Reflections Program judging increases the exposure of the PTA, its work, and the wonderful benefits students derive from participating in the arts. Other Rules to know: If a judge knows a student participants artwork, the judge should remove himself or herself from the judging process for that particular arts area to prevent a conflict of interest. Teachers from the host school serving as judges would also have a conflict of interest, so it is better to invite teachers from another school that offers the Reflections Program.
- Give local awards and certificates of participation to all and make announcements to schools as well as publications. Return all artwork (to those students whose artwork was not selected.)

- Send three (3) entries per category, the original Student Entry form signed by the students, the *Maryland PTA Requirements Checklist 08* , and the *Local Participation Form* to the Maryland PTA Reflections Chair post-marked on or before the deadline date. **All submissions MUST be received by date to be considered for judging.**

Forms for local unit Arts Chair:

- [General Student Participation Rules](#)
- [Arts Area Rules](#)
- [Student Entry Form](#)
- [Maryland PTA Requirements Checklist 2008-09](#)
- [Local Participation Form](#)

For more Frequently Asked Questions See:

LOCAL, COUNCIL, AND DISTRICT PTA INFORMATION:

- [FAQS AND THE JUDGING PROCESS](#)

Linking the Arts to Student Achievement

A growing body of studies presents compelling evidence connecting student learning in the arts to a wide spectrum of academic and social benefits. Research has shown that what students learn in the arts may help them to master other subjects, such as reading, math, or social studies. Students who participate in arts learning experiences often improve their achievement in other realms of learning and life.

There are six major types of benefits associated with study of the arts and student achievement:

- Reading and language skills
- Mathematics skills
- Thinking skills
- Social skills
- Motivation to learn
- Positive school environment

One convenient way to sum up how study of the arts benefits student achievement is the recognition that learning in the arts is academic, basic, and comprehensive. It is as simple as A-B-C.

Learning in the Arts is Academic. Learning experiences in the arts contribute to the development of academic skills, including the areas of reading and language development, and mathematics. Certain forms of arts instruction enhance and complement basic reading skills, language development and writing skills. Certain types of music instruction help develop the capacity for spatial-temporal reasoning, which refers to the ability to understand the relationship of ideas and objects in space and time.

Learning in the Arts is Basic. Arts learning experiences contribute to the development of certain thinking, social, and motivational skills that are considered basic for success in school, work, and life. Reasoning ability, intuition, perception, imagination, inventiveness, creativity, problem-solving skills and expression are among the thought processes associated with study of the arts.

Learning in the Arts is Comprehensive. Integration of the arts as a critical component of the school curriculum affords students a complete and well-rounded education. The benefits associated with study of the arts are inclusive of all students. An arts-rich learning environment can have far-reaching effects that extend to the entire school and surrounding community.

The evidence is clear: study of the arts contributes to student achievement and success. Its multiple benefits are academic, basic, and comprehensive. Despite convincing research and strong public support, the arts remain on the margins of education, often the last to be added and the first to be dropped in times of strained budgets and shifting priorities.

[More about parent involvement in promoting arts education](#)

Link site to National PTA's website: http://www.pta.org/pr_magazine_article_details_1117567150375.html

Forms Available:

[Reflections Handbook](#)

[General Rules](#)

[Dance Chorography Rules](#)

[Film/Video Production Rules](#)

[Literature Rules](#)

[Musical Composition rules](#)

[Photography Rules](#)

[Visual Arts Rules](#)

[Theme Search Application](#)

[Reflections Entry Form](#)

[Local/Council/District Participation Forms](#)

[Flyer Primary Preschool Grade 2 or up to age 7](#)

[Flyer Intermediate Grades 3-5 or ages 8-10](#)

[Flyer Middle/Junior Grades 6-8 or ages 11-13](#)

[Flyer Senior Grades 9-12 or ages 14+](#)

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the following general participation rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

1. Theme

The theme for the 2008–2009 PTA Reflection Program is “Wow!” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.

2. Student Eligibility through Local PTAs

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with the national PTA organization 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 Reflections Program.

A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

3. Grade Divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: **preschool–grade 2**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5**
- Middle/Junior: **grades 6–8**
- Senior: **grades 9–12**

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, the national PTA organization suggests that they be grouped as follows:

- Primary: **up to age 7**
- Intermediate: **ages 8–10**
- Middle/Junior: **ages 11–13**
- Senior: **ages 14+**

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

4. Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of the six arts areas:

- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts
- Dance choreography
- Film production

The national PTA organization does not limit the number of entries a student may submit. All entries must include an artist statement that describes how the piece relates to the theme.

5. Children with Disabilities

PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Reflections Program at the national level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. The national PTA organization believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age. However, guidelines for state and local Reflections Programs may vary. Check with your state PTA for its guidelines.

6. Deadlines

Each student must submit his or her work by the deadline established by his or her local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the state, district, and council needs. These entries are judged, and the selected works are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, district, or state). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your state PTA or state arts chair. The national PTA organization does not have deadlines for local, council, district, or state PTAs.

7. Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in artwork. Students who are submitting entries need to meet school and/or local and state PTA standards. Judges review entries based upon creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme.

Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no conditions may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of an entry. All decisions of judges are final.

8. Award Recipient Notification

State arts chairs will notify students who receive national recognition. State arts chairs will submit original photography and visual arts pieces to the national PTA organization for the creation of the Reflections Program Gallery on the PTA national website. Any artworks, awards, or certificates returned to the national PTA office due to insufficient or incorrect addresses will be mailed to the appropriate state office.

9. Further Information

Only your state PTA office and state PTA arts chair can provide you with information about your state's Reflections Program rules and deadlines.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program Student Entry Form

Theme: "Wow!"

Directions: Please print clearly. Completely fill out the form down to and including the required signatures. Leave the boxed area for local PTA information blank. If you need more space, use the back of this form or an extra sheet of paper. Be sure to write your name on any additional pages.

Grade _____ Age _____	Grade Division (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Primary: preschool–grade 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate: grades 3–5 <input type="checkbox"/> Middle/Junior: grades 6–8 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior: grades 9–12	Arts Area (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Composition <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Choreography <input type="checkbox"/> Film Production
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Title of Work _____

Required Artist Statement

How does your work connect to the theme? _____

See attached (Please print your name on any attached sheets.)

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Photography and Visual Arts: Give the dimensions of the work in inches, including mat. L _____ W _____

Photography: Describe the process used in preparing the piece. _____

Visual Arts: Describe the media (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.). _____

Dance Choreography: Who performed your choreography? _____

Film Production: Respond to the following:

Who appears in your film? _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____

Dance Choreography and Film Production: Credit the background music below.

Musical Composition: Respond to the following: Check one: Traditional Instrumentation Synthesizer

Who performed your composition for your recording? _____

Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware. _____

Are lyrics included? If so, how do your lyrics complement your composition? _____

F o l d h e r e

Student's
 First name _____ Middle intl. _____ Last name _____

Address 1 _____ Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone ☎ () _____ E-mail ✉ _____

PTA includes the national, state, district, council, and local PTA/PTSA organization or unit. I grant PTA permission to use my works for commercial or noncommercial use, including but not limited to public presentation of the work and reproduction of the work in print, electronic, and multimedia formats to promote the Reflections Program. PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to a copy or to a slide. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. Entries may not be returned. I understand that I must participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA/PTSA in good standing. I affirm that this is my own original work. **I understand that the submission of my entry into the Reflections Program constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.**

 Signature of student

 Signature of parent/legal guardian (necessary if child is under 18 years)

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL PTA Check one: PTA PTSA Local eight-digit PTA ID: _____

Local chair name _____ Official PTA/PTSA name _____

PTA address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____ Phone () _____

Local PTA good standing status: Membership dues paid date __/__/__ Insurance paid date __/__/__ Bylaws approval date __/__/__

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
LITERATURE
Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

Description

A literature entry may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child’s name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form. If the entry has no title, please write “Untitled.”

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return literature entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of literary genres, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and one copy of the entry are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.
- Number all pages.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Format

- Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ inches by 11 inches in size.
- Submit the original and one copy of the entry in a manila file folder with the Student Entry Form stapled to the back of the folder.
- Do not mount entries.
- Do not offer entries with printed text on both sides of the page.
- Write the student's name on the back of each page in case pages become separated.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not acceptable. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.

Assistance

Dictation and typing:

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Translation:

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own languages. **An interpretive translation must accompany the entry.**
- Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Musical Composition Rules.

Description

A musical composition entry may be for voice, instruments, or a combination of voice and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed five minutes. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The use of composition software is permitted. Students are strongly discouraged from submitting highly edited MIDI sequences or audio files. The recording submitted must capture performers in real-time. The entry may not include imported MIDI or other source files, or use algorithmic composition software.

Use of notation software for the purpose of creating scores and printed parts is permitted. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Musical composition entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return musical composition entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of musical genres, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

Whether a student must submit musical notation is determined by his or her grade division:

- Primary and Intermediate: No notation is required. Iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation.
- Middle/Junior and Senior: Notation, either traditional, tablature, or electronic, is required. The notation should aid the listener and serve as a guide through the piece.
- Adults may not assist. Physically challenged students may dictate to another person who may write the notation. The quality or accuracy of the notation and performance support the musical idea, but they are not considered judging criteria.

Format

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- Students are not required to perform their own compositions.
- A student’s composed work may be performed by a group.
- Score size:
 - Entries should be no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches.
 - Band and orchestra compositions may be 11 inches by 16 inches.
 - Do not mount or bind the scores.

Recording Requirements

- All grade divisions must submit a CD recording of the composition.
- Submit the CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD and the container with the student’s name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD with the score (if required) in a large envelope. Write the student’s name on the back of each page of the score in case pages become separated.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close windows and turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument or speakers.
- Don’t record at too loud (in the red zone on the meter) or too soft (meter barely moving) a level.
- Record a short test and listen to it while watching the meter. If needed, improve recording quality by changing the record volume or microphone location.
- Return to the beginning of the CD and record two seconds of silence; then start performing your composition. Finish with another two seconds of silence.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who performed your composition?
- Did you use traditional instrumentation or a synthesizer?
- If you used MIDI, what software and hardware did you use to compose your work?
- If you included lyrics, how do they work with your composition?

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following
Dance Choreography Rules.

Description

Dance choreography entries must be original choreographed dance composition works recorded on a DVD or CD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current Reflections Program theme.

There may be up to three dancers performing the choreography. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Costumes are not necessary. If costumes are used, however, the choreographer must also create the costumes or directly note that the costumes are not the original work of the student.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique. Therefore, it is very important that the student show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. The connection should be made evident through the use of song, props, or the dance itself.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return dance choreography entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of dance styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the entry's connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- All grade divisions must submit a DVD or CD of a performance of the choreography.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).
- The performance should directly relate to the theme.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .QT (Quicktime Video)
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- The recorded performance should be saved as a file on the DVD/CD, not as a DVD/CD movie.
- Submit the DVD or CD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the DVD/CD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the DVD/CD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, state who performed the choreography and credit the background music.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
FILM PRODUCTION
Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following
Film Production Rules.

Description

A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Reflections Program theme. Entries may be with or without sound.

The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and cameraperson. If using a computer, the student must do all of the work. If the student chooses to appear in the production, a camera on a tripod may be used. All storyboarding, editing, etc., must be done by the student.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Categories

- **Animation:** Animation may be drawn; created from a collection of objects, clay, torn paper, etc.; or computer-generated.
- **Narrative:** A story told through the images created on film or computer. (This is not the same as a storyteller narrating an original story.)
- **Documentary:** Nonfiction documentation using narration, facts, and images.
- **Experimental:** Video that explores movement, light, and montage.
- **Media presentations:** Computer-generated media presentations must be completely original, and the student must do all the work. Cutting and pasting from other sources is not permitted.
- **PowerPoint presentations will not be accepted.** Students must adhere to copyright laws. Software should be used only to enhance and present the work of the student. Due to the fact that most graphic elements of PowerPoint presentations are copyrighted clip art, use of this program is prohibited.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material other than music is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the

program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

The national PTA office does not return film production entries.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of film styles, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Music

The title, composer, and performer of any background music must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form. If the connection to the theme is expressed in the song choice, this should be explained in the artist statement.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The film should directly relate to the theme.
- The student submitting the entry is not required to appear in the video.
- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 - .MPG / .MPEG
 - .MOV / .QT (Quicktime Video)
 - .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- Entries should be submitted on CD or DVD. The entry should be saved as a file on the CD/DVD, not as a CD/DVD movie.
- Submit the CD or DVD in a plastic or cardboard container; identify both the CD/DVD and the container with the student's name, grade division, state, and year.
- Pack the CD/DVD in a large envelope.
- Secure the Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope with masking tape.

Recommendations for Quality Recordings

- Use a tripod to hold the camera still.
- Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if shooting indoors.
- Think about sound. Use an extra microphone (boom mike) if needed. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.).

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, please answer the following:

- Who appears in your film? (It is suggested that you gain parental consent for any minors who appear in your film.)
- Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware.
- Was any background music used? If so, credit the music.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
PHOTOGRAPHY

Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following
Photography Rules.

Description

A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or a group of images, produced by a photographic process. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

The entry may incorporate such techniques as montage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. Images should demonstrate the student's proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure. The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources. Photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not acceptable.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

Please contact your state PTA for its artwork return policy. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Your artwork may also be chosen to participate in other shows or exhibits; if so, the national PTA office will contact you to inform you of the approximate date of the return of your artwork. If your work is not chosen for additional display outside the online gallery, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of photographic processes and treatments, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
- Print the entries on paper or other two-dimensional material.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies), and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the photograph on top of the shrink-wrap.

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece and describe the process used in preparing the piece.

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
VISUAL ARTS
Theme: “Wow!”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Visual Arts Rules.

Description

A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the current Reflections Program theme.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Each participant is also required to submit an artist statement to describe how his or her piece relates to the theme. While there is no required length, the artist statement is mandatory for all entries. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child’s name.

Students have the option of placing the titles of their works on the Student Entry Form and must answer a few questions about how they created their works (see Required Information).

Return of Artwork

Please contact your state PTA for its artwork return policy. If your entry receives a national-level award, your original artwork will be used to prepare the Reflections Program online gallery. Your artwork may also be chosen to participate in other shows or exhibits; if so, the national PTA office will contact you to inform you of the approximate date of the return of your artwork. If your work is not chosen for additional display outside the online gallery, the national PTA office will make every effort to return your artwork by early 2010.

Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. Due to the diversity of artistic media, the interpretation of the theme is weighted very heavily in judging.

Presentation

- All art must be flat and may not be more than 3/8 inch thick. This includes all two-dimensional materials and images, including small, flat items (such as string, fabric, and screening) that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image. Nothing three-dimensional (noodles, beans, beads, boxes, etc.) may extend off the surface of a work.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 30 inches, including a mat.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas (not to exceed 3/8-inch thickness).
- Mount all paper or canvas entries on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wooden, metal, plastic, or glass frames.
- Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
- Lamination is discouraged because it can permanently damage the surface of the artwork.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a sheet protector and tape it (with masking tape) to the back of the artwork on top of the shrink-wrap.

Works Not Accepted

- Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other three-dimensional artwork
- Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

Required Information

On the Student Entry Form, give the dimensions of the piece and describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.).

Required Artist Statement

On the Student Entry Form, describe what inspired you to create this work and how it relates to the theme. This is required for all grade divisions.

**2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
Local PTA Participation Form
Theme: “Wow!”**

Please complete this form and forward it with your Reflections Program entries to the next level of judging. This form documents the number of students participating in the Reflections Program at the local PTA level. *Please provide all of the information requested.*

This form is to be completed by the local PTA representative.

Local PTA Information

PTA/PTSA name _____

PTA/PTSA address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

PTA/PTSA president's name _____

Reflections Program chair's name _____

Reflections Program chair's address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ E-mail address _____

School name _____

School address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Total number of students enrolled in the school _____

Total number of students participating in the Reflections Program _____

	Total entries received	Total entries forwarded
Literature		
Musical composition		
Photography		
Visual arts		
Dance choreography		
Film production		
Total number of entries		

Please forward this completed form with your entries to the next level of judging.

2008–2009 PTA Reflections Program
Council PTA Participation Form
Theme: “Wow!”

Please complete this form and forward it with your Reflections Program entries to the next level of judging. This form documents the number of students participating in the Reflections Program at the local and council PTA levels. *Please provide all of the information requested.*

This form is to be completed by the council PTA representative.

Council PTA Information

Council PTA name _____

Council PTA address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Reflections Program chair’s name _____

Reflections Program chair’s address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ E-mail address _____

Number of local PTAs in council _____

Number of local PTAs participating in the program _____

Local PTA Information

Total entries received by <i>all</i> local PTAs in your council (Total number of entries received based on participation forms submitted to the council)	
Literature	
Musical composition	
Photography	
Visual arts	
Dance choreography	
Film production	
Total number of entries	

Council PTA Information

	Total entries received	Total entries forwarded
Literature		
Musical composition		
Photography		
Visual arts		
Dance choreography		
Film production		
Total number of entries		

Please forward this completed form with your entries to the next level of judging.

Goals
2007-2009

Approved by Board of Directors – December 8, 2007

Goal 1-

a) To increase membership to 250,000 members by March 2009

Plan:

Each local unit will increase membership by 5%.

This information will be communicated in electronic newsletters and at all trainings.

Membership reports will be sent each month to all councils. They will be responsible for contacting units who are below the membership numbers from the previous year.

The office staff will review the membership payments and contact those schools who have not sent in any payment by mid Dec.

Information for membership will be included with the invoice mailings.

b) To reinstate PTA units in Prince George's and Baltimore City by 50%

Plan;

State extension chair and members of the committee will work with the assigned office staff to contact and follow up all request for starting or reinstating a unit.

Letters will be sent to all schools who previously had a PTA unit to reinforce the benefits of having a PTA.

Letters will be sent to all schools without a PTA to explain the benefits of a PTA and how to contact MD PTA if interested in starting a PTA. These letters will be sent to the principal and any parent group currently in the school.

Goal 2- To increase training in a consistent manner by having 25% of the local officers attending introductory and regional training.

Plan:

Continue to provide free regional trainings, one in each region East, North, South and West.

Put out the dates of Leadership and Convention early.

Include information on membership invoices, website and have councils talk about the importance of attending MD PTA training.

Maintain registration information and include the e-mails on the electronic mailing list.

Develop a uniformed presentation.

Utilize TCBI leaders to present regional training.

Goal 3- To improve communication at all levels of Maryland PTA

Plan:

Develop a comprehensive e-mail list of all local units to include not only presidents but any PTA member who is interested in receiving electronic communications from Maryland PTA

Develop and implement an electronic newsletter to replace the current Bulletin

Utilize the OMDR e-mail function

Provide on the Maryland PTA e-mail site an address for all Board of Directors members

Make available to all committees conference call information for meetings as well as the possibility of conducting on-line meetings through such

venues as Constant contact, Dashboard.com or other comparable electronic venues.

ensure that all active councils provide dates for all Executive Board meetings, General membership meetings and special events to the

VP of Councils.

Goal 4- To have 80% of all locals in good standing by June 30, 2009

Plan

Develop a comprehensive membership list to send to council presidents every month with information related to dues, bylaws, incorporation and insurance

Post on website the definition of good standing

Provide training at all Regional, Summer leadership and Convention on what it means to be in good standing

Have office staff contact via phone calls, e-mails and/or letters any local unit who has not made a dues payment by Dec. 30 and again if no payment by Feb. 27/28

To promote the purpose and interest of Maryland PTA
To strengthen the local PTAs
To provide for conference, leadership training and coordination of efforts of the local
PTA
Sample Council Report

Council Name _____

Date of Report _____

Describe briefly how the council has addressed the goals of Maryland PTA with your local units.

Goal 1 To increase membership to 300,000 members by March 2008

1. *Contacted local units listed on membership report who have not currently reported the same membership as last year.*
2. *E-mail 12 units heard back from 4 units.*
3. *Information provided to local units on ways that they can try to increase membership via e-mail and council newsletter*

Goal 2 Improve communication with local, council and Maryland PTA

1. *I continue to e-mail local units each month with information related to increasing membership, budget and bylaws*
2. *continue to send monthly reports to VP councils*

Goal 3. To increase training in a consistent manner by having 25% of the local units attend introductory and regional training

1. *planned training for local units Oct. 10, 2007 will be providing information on budget and bylaws*
2. *General membership meeting held on Sept 29. presented budget to units and had speaker from school system.*

Goal 4. to have 80% of all locals in good standing by June 30, 2009

1. *Contacted all local units via e-mail regarding what in good standing means.*
2. *Council bylaws chair to contact all local units with a letter regarding need to resubmit bylaws.*
3. *training on Oct. 10 will address bylaws.*

