

# 2009–2010 National PTA Reflections Program GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES Theme: “Beauty is...”

Please copy and distribute this information to all participants. Students must adhere to the following general rules as well as the rules for each specific arts area.

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## 1. Theme

The theme for the 2009–2010 program is “Beauty is” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.

## 2. Student eligibility through local PTA

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

## 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 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 office 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 office for the creation of the Reflections Program Gallery on the PTA national website.

## 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.