

National PTA Reflections Program:
Dance/Choreography Rules and Guidelines (page 1 of 2)
“The Magic of a Moment”
Deadline Date: _____

Description

A dance choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance recorded on a DVD. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation of the current Reflections Program theme. 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 his or her original work.

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. 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, and the dance itself.

Traditional Dance

The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or the significance of the choreography might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a dance choreography entry that involves traditional cultural or regional dances.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed five minutes.
- The choreography should directly relate to the theme.
- Submit performance of the choreography on DVD. Submit two copies of the DVD. Do not write protect DVD.
- The choreographer is not required to be the (or one of the) performer(s).

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.

Student Eligibility

Students must participate in the National PTA Reflections® Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National 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 National PTA Reflections® Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Grade Divisions

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

Primary: preschool – grade 2	Intermediate: grades 3 – 5	Middle School: grades 6 – 8;
High School: grades 9 – 12	Special Artist: ungraded	

Special Artists Division

- Qualifying students create their own artwork but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.
- Students who qualify for the Special Interest Division may choose to enter in the traditional four grade divisions. If this is the case, the student will follow all general rules and arts category rules, but may submit the entry in the grade division most closely aligned to their cognitive or functional abilities. The student is recognized and awarded as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.
- National PTA will honor one Special Artist from across all categories to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award. Up to five additional Special Arts will receive a National PTA Award of Excellence.
- If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests that they be grouped as follows: Primary: up to age 7; Intermediate: ages 8–10; Middle: ages 11–13; Senior: ages 14+
- It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

Student Entry Process

- Students enter the National PTA Reflections® Program at local levels. Students fill out the Student Entry Form by the local unit deadline date listed at the top of this page and submit their entry to their local unit for awards judging. All artwork must contain a title and all entries must include an artist statement. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words. For most arts areas, students must also answer a few questions about how they created their works; see the back side of the Student Entry Form.
- Upon completion of the local program, students whose winning entries are selected to move to the next level of the Reflections competition will complete an online entry process, and the local unit or council will send the DVD with their dance/choreography, along with a student entry form to the State PTA for next level of adjudication. Instructions are listed on the next page in “Checklist for Preparing your Entry.”

National PTA Reflections® Theme: “The Magic of a Moment”

- The theme for the 2012 – 2013 National PTA Reflections® Program “The Magic of a Moment.” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- All entries must contain a Title.
- All entries must include an Artist Statement. The artist statement communicates what inspired the work and how it relates to the theme, and also describes the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.

Dance/Choreography Rules and Guidelines (page 2 of 2)

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.
- 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 student.

Browser Recommendations

The National PTA Reflections website can be accessed using any of the following browsers:

- Chrome 12 and greater,
- Firefox 3 and greater,
- Safari 4 and greater,
- Internet Explorer 6 and greater.

Deadlines

Students must submit all works by the deadline established by their local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program sets its own deadline for entries, in adherence with state and council deadlines. Entries are judged at the local level and the top entries are forwarded to the next level of judging (council or state). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to the WSPTA office. National PTA does not record deadlines for local, council, or state PTAs.

Judging

All national entries are judged on Interpretation of the National PTA Reflections® Theme, Artistic Merit, Creative Merit, and Technical Merit. The National PTA Reflections® Program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Each PTA/PTSA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry. All decisions of judges are final.

CHECKLIST FOR PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

What students must do to enter:

- ___ Follow rules and guidelines given regarding presentation and format for your entry.
- ___ Assign a title to your entry.
- ___ Complete the student entry form, taking care to:
 - a. include the name of your entry, and
 - b. fill out the artist's statement, which communicates what inspired the work, how it relates to the theme, and the content of the work. The statement must include at least one sentence, but may not exceed 100 words.
 - c. answer specific questions tied to each arts category (These question should be printed on the back side of your local unit Reflections Student Entry Forms.)
- ___ Print the form and sign it, and have one parent or guardian sign it also.
- ___ Submit the artwork and paper copy of the student entry form to your local PTA's Reflections Chair on or before the locally established deadline.
- ___ Submit entry in one of the following formats:
 - Save the entry as AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, WMV, FLV
 - Maximum Upload File Size: 1GB (one gigabyte)
 - The recorded performance should be saved as a file on the DVD, not as a DVD movie.

Questions? Contact WSPTA Reflections Chairperson, Michelle Bartholomew, Reflections@wastatepta.org, 509-768-0137, 5225 S. Saltese Lk. Rd., Greenacres, WA. 99016