

# Reflections: The Basics

Reflections is a nation-wide PTA arts enhancement program. Students create and enter artwork in any of 6 arts areas (listed below) for display within the school. Pieces that are judged to be of outstanding quality can go on to county, state or national levels. The program is designed to encourage student expression and participation in the arts.

The artwork is based on a different theme each year; this year's theme is

**“Together We Can...”**

Each entry should be the original work of ONE student. There are rules for each category, including size and length requirements. These may change somewhat from year to year so be sure to read the current rules before starting.

**Finished pieces will need to be turned in to MPA's program  
the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## **FAQ's—**

### How does the program run at MPA?

Students will turn in their artwork on the designated turn-in day. The artwork will be displayed within the school for about a week. Outside judges will select a few pieces to receive awards based on their originality/creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme. There will be a celebration for all participants, as well as a ceremony for those students whose pieces received an award.

### If my child's piece is selected to move on, what will happen?

If your student's piece is chosen to go on, it will first go to the Jefferson County PTA program. Jeffco does a display of all the pieces at Red Rocks Community College. Pieces will be judged there, and some will be selected to go on to the State program. The State program does not do a display of pieces. Some pieces will be selected to go on to the National program. Each program has its own timeline and awards notification process.

Pieces that go to the Jeffco program are usually returned to the school in February. Pieces that are not returned in February, either because they moved on to the State program or for other reasons, will not be returned until after the Colorado PTA Convention, usually in May. Please be patient; everyone involved in this program at every level is a volunteer.

### How much can I help my student with his/her entry?

The program is designed for students to experiment with different forms of art and showcase what they create, so parent involvement should be very limited. You may assist your child with technical issues (for example, teaching them how to use an editing program for film or exposing them to different music for their dance choreography piece) so long as your involvement does not affect the artistic integrity of the piece. Teaching them how to mix watercolors is ok—mixing the colors for them is not. Helping them brainstorm ideas is great—telling them what to write about is not. Be sure that their final piece truly expresses their own ideas and effort.

### I just looked at the rules and...wow. What do I really need to know to participate?

The basics for each category are listed below, that should be enough to get you started. However, it is important to read over the full rules as well.

**For every entry—** follow the category rules.

- Include an entry form signed by both the parent and the student
- Make sure your entry is completely dry when you turn it in—wet paint or glue makes a mess of other student's pieces.
- Fill in the artist statement for every piece

**Visual Arts**—includes painting, drawing, metal etching, collages, fiberwork, etc.

- no bigger than 12 x 18 inches (including the mat)
- mounted on a stiff backing (like cardboard)
- no thicker than 3/8 inch, and flat on the surface (no noodles, cotton balls, etc. sticking up off the top)
- shrink wrap and mats are optional

**Photography**—single photos or groups of photos.

- Digital is OK.
- If it has anything other than photos in it—clip art, lettering, etc.—it's Visual Arts.
- no bigger than 11 x 14 inches (including the mat)
- mounted on a stiff backing (like cardboard)
- shrink wrap and mats are optional

**Music Composition**—turn in a recording of a musical piece, with or without lyrics, written by the student. The piece can be played or sung by someone else for the recording, but it must be composed by the student.

- no longer than 5 minutes, recorded on a cassette or CD. A CD recording is highly advisable. If recorded on a microcassette, you must include a microcassette player with the piece.
- Middle and Senior divisions (6<sup>th</sup> graders and up) need to include notation for their piece

**Literature**—poems, stories, plays, fiction or non-fiction.

- no more than 2,000 words, handwritten or typed
- an original and one copy, on paper no bigger than 8 ½ x 11 inches
- number your pages and put your name on the back of each page

**Film/Video**—an original film or video, recorded on a videocassette or CD

- no longer than 5 minutes
- able to be viewed using a standard VCR or DVD player

**Dance Choreography**—an original dance, in any style, choreographed by you.

- up to 3 dancers can perform your dance
- any costumes need to be made by you (but they're not required)
- no longer than 5 minutes
- able to be viewed using a standard VCR or DVD player

The rules mention copyright issues—can you clarify?

The basic rule is that you can't use copyrighted pieces in your piece. The exceptions to the rule are:

- Photographs, visual artworks, and films may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material, or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.
- Visual arts collages may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine clippings, Internet images, and type cut out of a newspaper, as long as those portions of copyrighted works are used to create a completely new and different work of art. A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, *original* work of art on its own.
- Dance choreography and film production entries may use copyrighted music. The title, composer, and performer of any music used must be credited and documented on the Student Entry Form.