

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

Theme: "Beauty Is..."

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY RULES

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Dance Choreography Rules. Questions? Contact :

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.
- Entries based on Traditional Dance styles (such as Indian or Irish dancing) are permitted as long as the steps are modified to be an original work of the student. An explanation of the origin of the dance and/or significance of the choreography is a useful addition to the artist statement.
- Other creative movement genres (such as ice dancing, synchronized swimming or gymnastics) are allowable as long as the dance interpretation element is emphasized. The choreography must be original and cannot come from a competitive routine.

Presentation

- Entries may not exceed three minutes.
- The choreography should directly relate to the theme.
- 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).
- At the beginning of the recording, the student may appear and give the artist statement. This will not be part of the three minute entry time limitation. Please do not give your name, school or grade.

Format

- 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.
- Enclose the DVD/CD in a large envelope.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a plastic sheet protector taped to the outside of the envelope. If you do not have a protector, tape entry form on corners only.

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.

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. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.
- The artist statement (250 word maximum) describing how the piece relates to the theme is mandatory for all entries.
- Students have the option of placing a title on their work. If there is no title, please fill in "Untitled."
- 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.

Judging

All 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.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

Theme: "Beauty Is..."

FILM PRODUCTION RULES

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Film Production Rules. Questions? Contact:

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.

Styles

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.

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 film.
- Entries should be submitted on CD or DVD.
- At the beginning of the recording, the student may appear and give the artist statement. This will not count as part of the five minute entry time limitation. Please do not give your name, school or grade.

Format

- Submissions should be in one of the following file formats:
 1. .MPG / .MPEG
 2. .MOV / .QT (Quicktime Video)
 3. .WMV (Windows Media Video)
- 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.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector and tape to the outside of the envelope. If you do not have a sheet protector, tape entry form on the corners only.

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.).

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. In situations where the child

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

- The artist statement (250 word maximum) describing how the piece relates to the theme is mandatory for all entries.
- Students have the option of placing a title on their work. If there is no title, please fill in "Untitled."
- 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.
- Be sure and fill out:
 1. Who appears in your film? (It is suggested that you gain parental consent for any minors who appear in your film.)
 2. Was a computer used? If so, name the software and hardware.

Judging

All 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.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program LITERATURE Theme: “Beauty Is...”

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

Questions? Contact:

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.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and two copies are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed, either on a typewriter or with a computer.
- Number all pages and write student's name on the back of each.
- 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 with the Student Entry Form attached to the back of the entry.
- If possible, submit entry + 2 copies in a clear sheet protector or in a manila folder.
- Do not mount entries.
- Do not submit entries with printed text on both sides of the page.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not acceptable. A student may submit more than one work, but each one must be submitted separately.

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 language. **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.

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. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.
- The artist statement (250 word maximum) describing how the piece relates to the theme is mandatory for all entries.
- Students have the option of placing a title on their works. If there is no title, please fill in "Untitled."

Judging

All 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.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program

MUSICAL COMPOSITION Theme: “Beauty Is...”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following Musical Composition Rules. Questions? Contact:

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.
- Musical compositions may not borrow or sample from copyrighted material.
- 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.

Presentation

- Primary and Intermediate grades: If the student does not know how to notate or does not have access to notation software, iconic notation may be submitted. Iconic notation is “made-up” notation to indicate how the notes go higher/lower, faster/slower, louder/softer etc.
- Middle/Junior and Senior graders: 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.
- At the beginning of the recording before the music begins, the student should give the artist statement. This will not count as part of the five minute entry time limitation. Please do not give your name, school or grade.

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:
 - Should be no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches unless band or orchestra.
 - Band and orchestra compositions may be up to 11 inches by 17 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.

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

- The artist statement (250 word maximum) describing how the piece relates to the theme is mandatory for all entries.
- Students have the option of placing a title on their works. If there is no title, please fill in "Untitled."
- On the form, please answer the following:
 1. Who performed your composition?
 2. Did you use traditional instrumentation or a synthesizer?
 3. If you used MIDI, what software and hardware did you use to compose your work?
 4. If you included lyrics, how do they work with your composition
 5. Give the length of your piece.

Judging

All 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.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program PHOTOGRAPHY Theme: “Beauty Is...”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following
Photography Rules. Questions? Contact:

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 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.

Presentation

- A single print or collage may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches, including a mat.
- Print the entries on paper or some other two dimensional material.
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Framed entries, original film (negatives or transparencies) and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector taped to the back of the photograph. If you do not have a sheet protector, tape entry form on the corners only.

Use of Copyrighted Material

Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any photography submission, with the following exception:

Photographs 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.

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. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child’s name.
- The artist statement (250 word maximum) describing how the piece relates to the theme is mandatory for all entries.
- Students have the option of placing a title on their works. If there is no title, please fill in "Untitled."
- On the form, please answer the following:
 1. Give the dimensions of the piece (including the mat).
 2. Specify the location and date of the shot (month/year).
 3. Describe the type of camera and process used for preparing the piece.

Return of Artwork

Reflections entries that are selected to advance to the IL PTA will be part of an exhibit that will travel throughout the state until the next convention in 2010. They will then be returned to the District Director who in turn will be responsible for returning them to the school of origin. 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.

Judging

All 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.

2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program VISUAL ARTS Theme: “Beauty Is...”

Students must adhere to the general participation rules as well as the following
Visual Arts Rules. Questions? Contact:

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.

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. Artwork on a stretched canvas frame will be disqualified.
- No art may exceed 24 inches by 20 inches (Illinois PTA rule), including the 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.
- Place the Student Entry Form in a clear sheet protector taped to the back of the entry. If you do not have a sheet protector, tape entry form on the corners only.
- **Works Not Accepted:** Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other three-dimensional artwork; reproductions or enlargements of other artwork

Use of Copyrighted Material

Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any photography submission, with the following exception:

Photographs 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.

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. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name.
- The artist statement (250 word maximum) describing how the piece relates to the theme is mandatory for all entries.
- Students have the option of placing a title on their work. If there is no title, please fill in "Untitled."
- Give the dimensions of the piece and describe the medium (crayons, oil on canvas, etc.).

Return of Artwork

All artwork that is chosen to advance to the state level will automatically become part of the 2009-2010 Reflections Traveling Exhibit which travels throughout the state for one year. It will then be returned to the District Director at the following IL PTA Convention who in turn will return it to a representative from your school. 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 2011.

Judging

All 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.