

# Reflections Contest Tid Bits

This years Reflection theme; **“I Will Change the World By...”**

There are 6 categories for the students to work their magic in;

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- VisualArts

There is also a section marked Special Artist which allows students who receive services under IDEA, ADA: Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program.

As long as your PTA is in good standings anyone in your school (even if they are not PTA members) can enter the Reflections Contest.

You can find further information, the category rules and a fillable poster on the Virginia PTA website; [www.vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections](http://www.vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections)

Many schools make up their own posters and their own entry forms however, the entry form found in the National PTA Student Packet (on the VAPTA Web site) is the form that you will need to use when forwarding winners on to the County level.

## **HCC PTA accepts both physical and virtual winning entries.**

- First place entries from each category (Dance, Film, Literature, Music, Photography and Visual Arts) should be submitted to the County Level. Special Artist can come from any and all categories. For example, if you have a Special Artist who submitted entries in both photography and music, we accept both entries.
- We only accept one entry from each category. If you have a tie, you must determine one winner. Highest points go towards the entry that closest reflects the theme.
- All entries must include the entry form including the Artist Statement.
- Please, please, please read through the rules for each category. Please emphasize to your students (and parents) how important it is for them to read through the rules. The rules change almost every year and the last thing any of us wants to do is disqualify an entry because it does not comply to the rules.

## Things to note about the rules:

Dance - This year they are only accepting AVI and MP4 formats. They must cite the music. Please make sure to keep a copy incase I can not access the copy you give to me.

Film - The accepted file format has changed from previous years. Please ensure the video is in the required format (AVI or MP4). Remind students and parents that the child must be the one filming. If they are in it then the camera must be on a tripod.

Literature - If the document is only one page it does not need to be numbered but you may want to number them so I know not to expect more than the one page. If submitting virtually, please submit the entire document in one file.

Music - Please ensure the submission is in the required format (MP3, WAV). Please remember that Middle and High School entries must have the written music included with the entry.

Photography - Please ensure the entries comply to the approved format (JPEG, JPG, GIF, PNG) no smaller than 3" x 5" and no larger than 8" x 10". Collages are not accepted.

Visual Arts - For regular Visual Arts (paintings, drawings), you must submit one (1) digital photograph. With 3D Artwork you must submit three (3) physical photographs

When submitting entries please also include a copy of your Local Unit Participation Form. See [www.hccpta.com](http://www.hccpta.com)

#### Other Tid Bits:

Encourage your students to enter the National PTA Reflections Theme Search Contest. They could win a \$100.00. Please go to the [VAPTA.org](http://VAPTA.org) to get the form and see previous theme's. HCCPTA does not collect submissions for this. You must submit your entries directly to the VAPTA via mail or physically. I think they only accept 5 entries from each school however you may want to contact the VA PTA to confirm.

#### A few more Tidbits:

This contest is for those kids who like to be artistic. This is an opportunity for them to show off their talents. With so many demands on their time it is hard for students to feel motivated. Therefore;

- Bribery is your friend. You would be surprised at how many entries you can get when you offer a chance to win a \$10.00 Target gift card. I have offered the chance to win one of two \$25.00 Target gift cards and the chance to win one of five \$10.00 Target gift cards in the past and was awarded with many entries to the contest. Students want to do the work, sometimes they just need a little incentive.
- Engaging teachers makes your job easier. Talk to your Art, Music and English teachers. Have them put up posters or talk up the contest during classes. Some teachers have been known to offer extra credit for participation. Students who are interested in the arts will feel more rewarded if they know they are supported by their teachers.

- Get your Principal on board. Schools that have the Principal involved have more participation. Principals tend to push the contest on morning announcements and mention it during assemblies. Remind your principal that when their students win at the County level, State level and National level, their school is mentioned.
- Make sure you advertise on your PTA web site as well as through facebook, twitter, etc. Parents are bombarded with information these days so you need to hit every avenue you can to make sure they are engaged.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with me, please give me a shout; Mary Wilson - [reflections@hccpta.org](mailto:reflections@hccpta.org) or 804-432-2773