Letter from the PTA President

Dear Liberty Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Liberty Community,

The first month of school just flew by! What a great start to the new school year, PTA membership has been amazing and volunteers have been outstanding. Thank you for supporting our spirit night @ Panera! It was a great turnout (of course the rain probably helped a little bit by cancelling most sports events). Keep a lookout for the flyer for our Spirit Night at McDonald’s on Oct 20. And, I am sure everyone is excited about the opening of Chick-fil-A. We have a spirit night scheduled in December, but, who knows, maybe we will have one a bit earlier.

Our first big event of the year, Liberty’s Annual Fall Fest is on Saturday, October 15th, 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. We have an inflatable obstacle course, moon bounce, new games, food, prizes, DJ, pumpkin patch, and much more. Your child’s entry wristband will get them unlimited games and bounces, so no game tickets to buy. Prizes can be won at each of the games. Wristbands will cost $10. If you want to play the games, you must buy a wristband (including parents); however, if you are just there to supervise your children, there is no entry fee for PTA members. Non-PTA members have the choice of paying $10 to enter or join the PTA for $11. Hope to see you there!

I hope everyone enjoyed Laps for Liberty and loves their new shirt! We had a beautiful although hot day for it, and many parents showed up to support their children. Thanks to the specialists and teachers who ran the event and the parents for helping mark lap cards, tallying pledge amounts due, and being great cheer leaders. You should have seen the system we had going in the library all day tallying pledges due — it was a smooth operation. Thanks to all of our parent volunteers, we calculated and returned over 1,100 pledge envelopes to the students on the same day as the run. Liberty families donated in excess of $35,000. Thank you for getting us off to a great start! Because it was so successful, we will NOT have a spring fundraiser at all. Thank you so much to all of our sponsors — TopKick, Kravitz Orthodontics, Huntington Learning Center, Lisa Bradford Realtor, Minuteman Printing, PowerWorx Dance, and Rangoli Restaurant (opening a location in Manassas soon). Please be sure to thank these businesses for their support. Thank you also to Matt Ocean, our fantastic DJ who kept the kids moving all day. We look forward to making Laps for Liberty even better next year. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email me at the address below.

Warm Regards,
Anne Corej
Liberty PTA President | libptapresident@gmail.com
Treasurer’s Report

Hello Liberty families! I am delighted to announce that the PTA is off to a fantastic financial start this new school year. We have brought in over $6,000 in membership dues, of which 60% stays here at Liberty. If you have not already done so, please consider joining the PTA.

Laps for Liberty was a great success! Thank you for the over $40,000 in donations! We will be able to fully fund STEMmerday, Teacher Appreciation Week, teacher welcome lunch, Eagle Eye Dads, assemblies, and numerous other programs that benefit our children.

William Perry | PTA Treasurer | Liberty Elementary School

Liberty’s Annual Fall Fest
Saturday, October 15th
4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

There will be an inflatable obstacle course, moon bounce, new games, food, prizes, DJ, pumpkin patch and much more!

Your child’s entry wristband will get them unlimited games and bounces, so no game tickets to buy. Prizes can be won at each of the games.

Wristbands will cost $10. If you want to play the games, you must buy a wristband (including parents); however, if you are just there to supervise your children, there is no entry fee for PTA members. Non-PTA members have the choice of paying $10 to enter or join the PTA for $11.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Box Tops for Recess Contest

We’re collecting Box Tops for Education. Look for the Box Tops logo on products you already buy, clip them and send them to school in your child’s backpack. It’s really easy! We get 10 cents for each Box Top, so if you fill in the collection sheet below, PTA will get $5 from General Mills. We’ll have a new contest every 7 weeks. You’re always welcome to send in your Box Tops in a sandwich bag any time. Please double-check that the Box Top is not expired!

October/November Contest
(10/3 – 11/18)
Top 3 Classes Win Extra Recess!

Please tape, glue or staple 50 Box Tops to the sheet (attached below) or place in a sandwich bag and send in via backpack by Nov. 18 to enter the contest. Every child in the three classes with the most Box Tops submitted will receive an extra few minutes of recess on a day selected by the teacher.

The winning class from the 1st contest will get to take care of the new Box Top Eagle stuffed animal until the next winner is announced in November!
PTA Reflections Program

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance a quality art education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts.

Please see the flyer and entry form included in the newsletter. **The last date to submit an entry is 10/28/2016 and must be submitted to the front office.**

For more information, please contact Lakshmi Raman at lakshmilatest@gmail.com.

Please see the FAQ on the PTA website for more details. The official forms are attached below, and can also be downloaded from the PTA website.

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**Eagle Eye Dads**

What a fantastic turnout for our Eagle Eye Dads kickoff! Donuts with Dads was so popular all 300 donuts were eaten. We’ve had 30 dads already sign up, which eclipses the number of Eagle Eye Dads from all of last year. If you would like to sign up to be an Eagle Eye Dad, please check the schedule at schedule.eagleeyedads.com to find an available date. Then sign up at signup.eagleeyedads.com. We have dates available through the end of April.

William Perry | [EagleEyeDads.com](http://EagleEyeDads.com) | Eagle Eye Dads Coordinator

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Donuts with Dads was a huge success! Parents and students enjoyed the delicious treats.
Student Name: __________________________
Teacher: __________________
Grade: ______

Contest Dates: October 3 – November 18

Prize: EXTRA RECESS TIME – Top 3 classes!

Please no expired Box Tops – thank you!

Child’s School
$5 for your
50 Box Tops

3
2
1

Clip Box Tops and check expiration date
Tape or glue Box Tops on sheet until filled

Send completed sheet to your school Coordinator

Clippered Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your school

(If your kindergarten indicate AM or PM)

Teacher: __________________
Grade: __________________
Student Name: __________________________
LIBERTY ELEMENTARY PTA PRESENTS

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, October 15th 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm (rain or shine)

ADMISSION: $10 per child/adult playing games
Supervisory Adults Free if PTA Member /
Non-Member $10 or join PTA for $11

Food, Fun, Prizes, and TONS of FUN!!!

Please Don't Forget to Thank Our Sponsors!!

(Big Eagle Sponsor)

East Gate Orthodontics

(Red, White & Blue Sponsors)

Dragon Yong-In Martial Arts

UNION

(South Riding, VA)

SOUTH RIDING FAMILY DENTISTS

(Big Spirit Sponsor)

The Bagley Family
BeFitNoVa
Julie Kelly Rodan+Fields

Lewis Bootcamp
Little Caesars
Bridget Penberthy – Mary Kay
Topkick

Price of admission includes games/prizes, cotton candy, pumpkin patch and cookie decorating.

Food and Drinks Will Be Available for Purchase
Opens: Monday, October 3rd

7:35 am – 7:50 am

Store Schedule
Monday: 5th grade
Tuesday: Kindergarten & 1st Grade
Wednesday: 2nd Grade
Thursday: 3rd Grade
Friday: 4th Grade

The school store will not accept bills larger than $5.
STUDENT NAME ___________________________ GRADE ______ AGE ______ M/F ______

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME __________________ EMAIL __________________ PHONE ______

MAILING ADDRESS __________________ CITY __________ STATE __ ZIP ______

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant’s irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions. I agree to the above statement and the National PTA Reflections Official Rules.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: ______________________ PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: ______________________

GRADE DIVISION (Check One)
☐ PRIMARY (Preschool- Grade 2) ☐ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)
☐ INTERMEDIATE (Grades 3-5) ☐ SPECIAL ARTIST (All Grades)
☐ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6-8)

ARTS CATEGORY (Check One)
☐ DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY ☐ MUSIC COMPOSITION
☐ FILM PRODUCTION ☐ PHOTOGRAPHY
☐ LITERATURE ☐ VISUAL ARTS

TITLE OF ARTWORK ______________________________________________________

ARTWORK DETAILS (Dance/Film: cite background music; Music: musician(s)/instrumentation; Literature: word count; Photo/Visual Arts: materials & dimensions) ______________________________________________________

ARTIST STATEMENT (Must be 10 to 100 words describing your work and how it relates to the theme)

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
By entering the “National PTA Reflections Program,” entrants accept and agree to be bound by these Official Rules as well as the entry requirements for their specific arts category and division. Any violation of these rules may, at PTA’s discretion, result in disqualification. All decisions of the judges regarding this program are final and binding in all respects. (The “PTA” referred to in these rules include all PTAs reviewing the entry).

1. **ELIGIBILITY.** Students must participate 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.

2. **ARTS CATEGORIES.** There are six arts categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in one or more arts categories. See each Arts Category Rules for additional entry requirements.

3. **GRADE DIVISIONS.** Students may enter in the appropriate division for their grade (Primary: Preschool-Grade 2; Intermediate: Grades 3-5; Middle School: Grades 6-8; High School: Grades 9-12; Special Artist: All grades welcome). If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests they be grouped by age (Primary: Up to age 7; Intermediate: Ages 8-10; Middle School: Ages 11-13; High School: Ages 14++; Special Artist: All ages welcome). See Special Artist Division Rules for entry requirements.

4. **HOW TO ENTER.** Entrants must submit their artwork and student entry form to their local PTA/PTSA program according to local and state PTA procedures. Entrants must follow requirements and instructions specific to each arts category and division. Contact local PTA programs for deadlines and additional information.

5. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.** (All participants must also follow Arts Category and Division Rules)
   - Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the current year’s theme may be submitted.
   - 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 except in the Special Artist Division. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student only. See the specific Arts Category Rules for details.
   - Each entry 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.
   - Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of PowerPoint presentations are prohibited because most graphic elements are copyrighted.

6. **FINALIST SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION.** Entries are reviewed at local, regional, state and national levels. Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. The National PTA Reflections® program makes no restrictions on content or subject matter in artwork. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of any entry.

   Awards are announced according to local and state procedures. National award recipients are notified via email by National PTA in May 1, 2017. The PTA in its sole discretion will select finalists for exhibition and provide awards/prizes. Visit PTA.org/Reflections for more information on Exhibitions and awards.

7. **OWNERSHIP AND LICENSE.** Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant’s irrevocable permission and consent that PTA may display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sublicense, publish, distribute and create derivative works for PTA purposes. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry into the PTA Reflections program constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.

8. **PARTICIPATING ENTITIES.** This program is administered by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and PTA affiliates.

9. **STATE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.** Contact your State PTA for additional requirements.
Students must participate through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing and may enter in one or more arts categories. Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the original work of one student only. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself must be the creative product of one student. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited, except for background music in dance choreography and film production entries when cited. Entries will be judged on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

**Dance Choreography.** Accepted styles include solo/ensemble include: ballet, contemporary, ethnic and folk, hip hop, jazz and tap. Choreographer may be the performer, or one of the performers, but does not have to be. Video recording must not exceed 5 minutes and must be less than 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Accepted file formats include: AVI, Quicktime (.mov), MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4), Windows Media (.wmv), and Flash Video (.flv, .f4v).

**Film Production.** Accepted forms include: Animation, narrative, documentary, experimental, or a media presentation (PowerPoint is prohibited). Entrant must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person including all storyboarding and editing. Video recording must not exceed 5 minutes and must be less than 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Accepted file formats include: AVI, Quicktime (.mov), MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4), Windows Media (.wmv), and Flash Video (.flv, .f4v).

**Literature.** Accepted forms of fiction and nonfiction include: Prose, poetry, drama (screen play and play script), reflective essay, narrative, and short story. Entry must not exceed 2,000 words and must be handwritten or typed; one side only. Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry. Accepted formats include: Single-sided print on 8 ½ x 11 paper, or PDF (.pdf) file format.

**Music Composition.** All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Copyrighted material is prohibited. The composer may be the performer, or one of the performers, but does not have to be a performer. Notation, score or tabulature is required for middle and high school division. Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes. Accepted file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC formats. Music videos are not accepted.

**Photography.** Accepted forms of photography include: A single photo, panoramic, photomontage (one seamless print of multiple original photos), a multiple exposure, negative sandwich or photogram. Original black-and-white and color images are accepted. Entrant must be the one to take the photograph. Must be mounted or matted on cardboard matte, poster board, or other sturdy material. Accepted formats include: Matted print, or high resolution digital photo (.jpeg, .jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp).

**Visual Arts.** Accepted forms include: Architecture (2D/3D), carpentry, ceramics, collages, photographic collages (multiple photos cut/pasted), computer-generated image, crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiber work, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture and wind chimes. Framed entries not accepted. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material and 3D works must include packaging materials and 3 high resolution photos of the entry for judging and ID purposes.
FILM PRODUCTION is the process of making a film. The producer (student submitting the entry) is not required to appear in the film but if the student chooses to, a camera tripod may be used. All screenwriting, directing, camera/filming and editing must be done by the student producer. PowerPoint presentations are prohibited.

2016-2017 Theme: What Is Your Story?

Consider the following styles to portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction:
- Animation: Demonstrates motion by sequencing still objects or using computer-generated graphics.
- Narrative: Tells a fictional story developed by the student.
- Documentary: Presents facts and information.
- Experimental: Explores movement, light and montage.
- Multimedia: Uses a combination of different contents (text, audio, still images, animation, etc.).

Originality: Only new and original videos inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

An explanation of the storyline and/or the significance of the film style might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. Software used to create an entry should only enhance and present the work, not provide the primary design.

Copyright: Entry may include public places, well-known products, trademarks or certain other copyrighted material as long as that copyrighted material is nonessential to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form.

Presentation: Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.

Ideas for Audio/Visual Quality: Use a tripod to hold the camera still. Make sure there is plenty of lighting, especially if indoors. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and watch it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Packaging:
- Accepted video file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
- Label video file and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRSITH.JOHN)
- Submit video and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.
DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY is the act of creating movement. The choreographer (student submitting entry) may be the performer or one of the performers, but the choreographer does not have to perform in the entry.

2016-2017 Theme: What Is Your Story?

Consider the following styles and ensembles to portray your original choreography: Ballet, contemporary, ethnic and folk, freestyle, hip hop, jazz, street dance, and tap.

Originality: Only new and original choreography inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Consider use of background song(s), props and the location to show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. 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. Whether an entry displays formal dance technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of background music must be cited on the student entry form.

Presentation: Video must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.

Ideas for Audio/Visual Quality: 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.). Record a short test and watch it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Packaging:
- Accepted video file formats include: AVI, MOV, MPG, MPEG, MP4, WMV, FLV and F4V.
- Label video file and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN)
- Submit dance video and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.
LITERATURE is the art of writing. The author (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of words. Authors submit a single literary work, handwritten or typed, using grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling. Collections of literary work (such as poems and short stories) are not accepted.

2016-2017 Theme: What Is Your Story?

Consider the following literary styles to portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction: Prose, poetry, drama (screen play and play script), reflective essay, narrative, or short story.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

An explanation of the storyline and/or the significance of the literature style might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays formal writing technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. Spoken word audio recordings and illustrated entries including books with pictures drawn by the student author are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Presentation: Entry may be hand written or typed. Writing must not exceed 2,000 words.

Acceptable Use of Type, Dictation and Translation
• Be typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
• Be dictated to another person and printed or typed in exact words as spoken by the student if the student is in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade. (Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work).
• Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. An interpretive translation in English 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.

Packaging:
• Print Format: Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 paper (one sided only).
• Electronic Format: Save/scan word document as a single PDF. Label file with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN)
• Label Cover Page/CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name. Submit literature and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.
VISUAL ARTS include many art forms that are visual in nature. The artist (student submitting entry) is a person who captures their own thoughts and ideas to create a visual piece of art.

2016-2017 Theme: What Is Your Story?

Accepted forms of visual art include: Architecture (2D/3D), carpentry, ceramics, collages, photographic collages (multiple photos cut/pasted), computer-generated image, crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiber work, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture and wind chimes.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork are not accepted. Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

An explanation of the art form might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of formal technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or likeness thereof, is not acceptable in any visual arts submission, with the following exceptions:

- Visual artwork 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.

Presentation: Framed artwork and artwork containing loose materials is not accepted. Matting is accepted.

- 2D artwork (e.g. painting) Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including matting. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material.
- 3D artwork (e.g. sculpture) Must be able to move for display purposes. Must include packaging materials and 3 photos of the entry (a combination of angles) for judging, ID and exhibition purposes (entries that require assembling/repairing from transporting will be disqualified).
- Digital photo(s) of artwork: Must be high resolution (300 dpi or higher).

Packaging:

- Label back of artwork and photo file(s) with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN).
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.
ELIGIBILITY. The National PTA Special Artist Division is an option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. The Special Artist Division offers modified rules and guidelines to ensure that every student has the chance to be part of the National PTA Reflections® program.

Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who: (1) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person; (2) Has a record of such an impairment; or (3) Is regarded as having such impairment.

HOW TO ENTER. Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections® Program. All students may enter in only one division. Student Entry Form requires parent/legal guardian signatures.

Option 1. Enter in Grade-Level Divisions: Regardless of age, students with special needs may enter in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. Students may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children. The divisions are as follows: Primary (preschool – grade 2); Intermediate (grades 3–5); Middle School (grades 6–8); High School (grades 9–12). Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.

Option 2. Enter in Special Artist Division: Eligible students entering the Special Artist Division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Students are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the Special Artist Division.

SPECIAL ARTIST GUIDLINES. Special artists should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the arts category student rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student’s disability.

Allowable Accommodations: Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non-exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:

- The Special Artist Division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
- Use of adaptive technology is allowed.
- All submissions must be solely created by the special artist. However, a parent, teacher or other adult may assist the special artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.

Accommodations that are Not Allowed: Individuals providing assistance to special artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:

- Personally selecting a title for artwork.
- Writing, editing or interpreting a student’s artist statement, story, poetry or script.
- Choreographing a dance, composing music or writing lyrics.
- Drawing, painting or personally creating a visual arts submission, choosing a camera angle, etc.

The Special Artist Division of the National PTA Reflections® program is optional at state and local levels. Please check with your state PTA regarding availability in your state of residence.
PHOTOGRAPHY is the process of creating an image. The photographer (student submitting entry) is a person who captures their own thoughts and ideas with a camera. By focusing on objects using various lenses, filters and light sources, photographers may demonstrate the use of photographic techniques conventionally or digitally.

2016-2017 Theme: What Is Your Story?

Accepted forms of photography include: A single photo, panoramic, photomontage (one seamless print of multiple original photos), a multiple exposure, negative sandwich or photogram. Original black-and-white and color images are accepted. Non-accepted forms of photography include: Entries with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are not accepted. Original film (negatives or transparencies) and multidimensional pieces are not accepted.

Originality: Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Consider use of objects, lighting and the location to show a clear relation of the photo to the theme. An explanation of the photography process/form might be a useful addition to the artist statement. Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Copyright: 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.

Presentation: Framed photos are not accepted. Matting is accepted.

- Print Photo: Must not exceed 11x14 inches, including matting. Mount on sturdy material such as cardboard or poster board.
- Digital Photo: Must be high resolution (300 dpi or higher).

Packaging:

- Label back of print and digital photo file with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN).
- Submit photography and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.
MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of creating a new piece of music. The composer (student submitting entry) is a person who expresses their own thoughts and ideas through the use of sound. The student composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score. Student composers are not required to perform their composition. Middle and high school grade divisions require music score/tablature/notation, either traditional or tablature.

2016-2017 Theme: What Is Your Story?

Consider the following musical styles and instruments to portray your original composition: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, world music, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional.

All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted. Software may be used to produce an audio recording that does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files. Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted. An explanation of the origin of the music and/or the significance of the music style might be a useful addition to the artist statement when submitting a music composition that involves traditional, cultural or regional instruments. Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity.

Originality: Only new and original songs inspired by the theme may be submitted. Each entry must be the work of one student only.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified.

Presentation: Audio must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size. Videos are not accepted.

Ideas for Audio Quality: Do not place the recording device on top of an instrument(s) or speakers. Turn off all noise-making devices in the room (air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.). Record a short test and listen to it. If needed, change the record volume or microphone location. Allow for two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your recording.

Notation & Score Required for Middle School & High School Divisions Only. Notation software may be used to create a score. Whether the score is handwritten or computer-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance. Number each page. Print on 8.5x11 (one sided only) or save/scan score as a single PDF.

Packaging:
- Accepted audio file formats include: MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) and FLAC.
- Label audio file, notation/score (if applicable) and CD/USB Drive with your State, Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name, First Name (Example: PA.DANCE.PRI.SMITH.JOHN)
- Submit music composition and student entry form according to your PTA’s instructions.

State Specific Instructions: Students must follow state specific requirements and instructions.

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.