

**Montgomery County Council  
of  
Parent Teacher Associations  
(MCCPTA)**

**REFLECTIONS  
GUIDEBOOK**

**2010-2011**

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**Hours of Operation – 10 am – 2 p.m. Monday – Friday (School Year)  
10 am – 12 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday (Summer)**

**[www.mccpta.net](http://www.mccpta.net)**

# MCCPTA GUIDEBOOK FOR REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

## What is Reflections?

The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works of art in four areas: literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage). In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. The Reflections Program was started in 1969 by then Colorado PTA President Mary Lou Anderson.

Each year, the Reflections Program challenges students to create art that relates to a specific theme. Themes are selected from thousands of ideas submitted by students to PTA's Reflections Program Theme Search. Past themes have included "A Different Kind of Hero", "If I Could Give the World A Gift...", "Imagine That...", "Exploring New Beginnings...", and "Beauty Is...".

2010-2011 Reflections theme is: "Together We Can..."

## To learn more about Reflections:

[www.ptareflections.org/](http://www.ptareflections.org/)

[www.mdpta.org/bridge\\_reflections.html](http://www.mdpta.org/bridge_reflections.html)

[www.pta.org/2032.asp](http://www.pta.org/2032.asp)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ReflectionsMCCPTA/>

## Categories Include:

Visual Arts

Photography

Literature

Dance Choreography

Music Composition

Film/ Video Production

## Divisions

Primary: Grades preK-2

Intermediate: Grades 3-5

Middle/Junior: Grades 6-8

Senior: Grades 9-12

## Ways to implement a Reflections program at your school:

Publicity

Judging

Paperwork

## **Publicity** - Let all of your school's teachers know about the program

- via E-mail
- Leave flyer in mailbox – the National PTA website has a reproducible flyer you can use at [http://www.pta.org/Reflections\\_Flier-BW.doc](http://www.pta.org/Reflections_Flier-BW.doc) and in Spanish [http://www.pta.org/Reflections\\_Flier-BW-Spanish.doc](http://www.pta.org/Reflections_Flier-BW-Spanish.doc) . Check the PTA site for 2010-11 flyers! On the reverse side, include details of your school's program:
  - Deadline for submission
  - Where to submit (drop off in workroom/media center, main office, etc)
  - Details for submitting (very important to have a signed entry form attached)
  - Date of showcase & reception
  - Chairperson's contact information
- Speak directly to the teachers at a staff meeting
- Announce in the school's newsletter, morning announcements, website, listserv
- Hang posters in your school - There is an 11x17 inch poster in both English at [http://www.pta.org/Reflections\\_Poster-BW.doc](http://www.pta.org/Reflections_Poster-BW.doc) and in Spanish at [http://www.pta.org/Reflections\\_Poster-BW-Spanish.doc](http://www.pta.org/Reflections_Poster-BW-Spanish.doc)

## **Reflections Logo**

[http://www.pta.org/Reflections\\_StyleGuide.pdf](http://www.pta.org/Reflections_StyleGuide.pdf)

## **Helpful Suggestions**

- E-mail Student Guidelines Packet directly to parent when you are able to do so.
- Leave a stack in a convenient place for students to pick-up themselves (in the media center, for example)
- Complete the PTA section of the entry form BEFORE making copies of it–will save you lots of time later!
- Include important information on cover of the packet:
  - remind students of the maximum dimensions of artwork
  - shrink wrap visual arts and photography submissions (rolls of shrink wrap available at Michael's)
  - Include title and artist statement –very helpful to judges!
  - Entry form should be in a plastic sleeve, so that the judges may remove to read artist's statement

## **Judging**

Each PTA Reflections chairperson is responsible for securing judges of their own local contest. It is helpful to find judges that work with children and understand their levels of ability.

Judges may use this form:

MCCPTA 2009-10 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM JUDGING SHEET  
 Theme: "Beauty is..."  
 GRADE DIVISION  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Primary, Pre – 2  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate, 3 – 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Middle, 6 – 8  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior, 9 – 12

ARTS AREA  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dance  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Literature  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Musical Composition  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Photography  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Arts  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Film

**JUDGING CRITERIA**  
*Interpretation of Theme:* How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement. Total points=5  
*Artistic Merit/Creativity:* How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation. Total points= 3  
*Mastery of Medium:* The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area. Total points=2  
 Maximum Total Points = 10

Name of Entry	Interpretation of Theme	Artistic Merit/Creativity	Mastery of Medium	Total Points	Comments for Student

- Judges should not be from your own school – MUST conduct *blind judging* (judges cannot see the name of the student). If the student’s name is on the front of the artwork, please cover with a post-it note, or something that can be removed without damaging the artwork.
- Judging can be done at your school, or you may take the entries to the judge.
- Be sure to *Thank the Judges!* PTAs may present a \$25 Borders’ gift card to the Literature judge and \$25 Michael’s gift card to the Visual Arts and Photography judges. PTAs may also choose to present a \$5 Borders gift card or PTA Reflections lapel pin to each judge. You may also wish to recognize them in your award ceremony program.

### Official Entry Form

- The PTA section MUST be completed – including all of the dates requested.
- Local PTAs must be in good standing with Maryland PTA in order to participate in the Reflections program.

**To Be In Good Standing:**

- Membership Dues must be paid
  - Bylaws must be current
  - Insurance must be paid
  - 
  - IRS form 990 must be filed
- Each submission must have a **completed & signed entry form (including the PTA section!)**

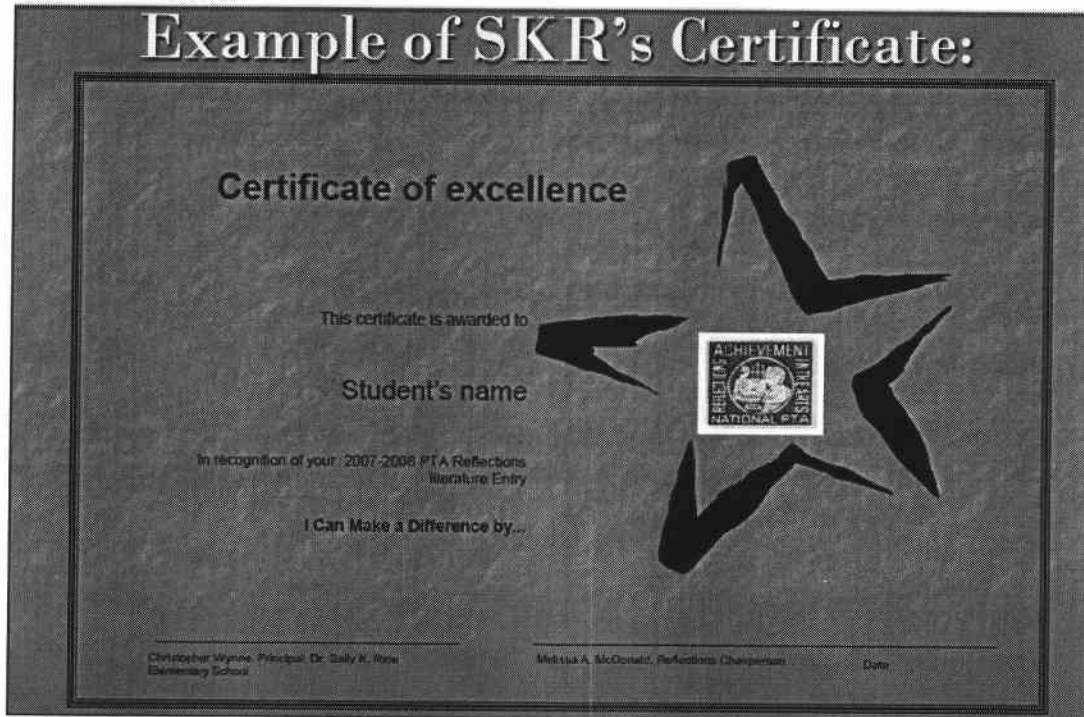
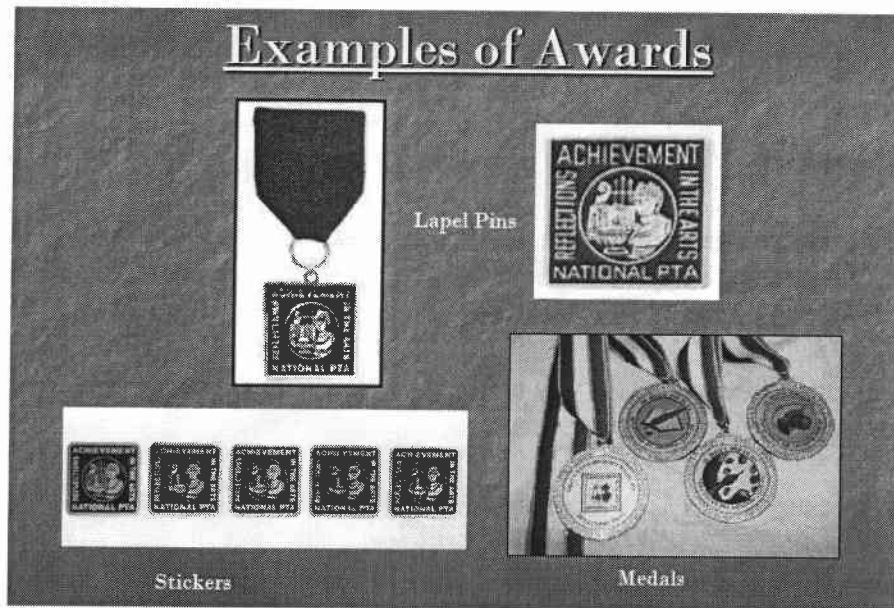
- Please remind students to include a **title and a mandatory artist's statement with each entry.**

## Forms & Paperwork

- All forms must be completed and included with the artwork moving up to the council level judging. Online forms will be available on the MDPTA website in mid-September, and will also be uploaded on the MCCPTA yahoo group site.
- Local unit entries due to MCCPTA office typically early January. Be sure to call ahead before dropping off entries.

## Awards and Recognition Ceremonies

- **School level** – *top 4* in each category & division move up to county level
- **County level** - *top 4* in each category & division move up to state level
- **State level** -
  - Outstanding Interpretation of Theme –up to 24 recipients
  - Award of Excellence –up to 48 recipients
  - Award of Merit ( similar to honorable mention)
  - Participation Certificates-to all participants
  - May be asked to perform or present at the state ceremony.
- **Local (school) level awards**
  - PTAs may chose to present each student with a participation medal at our showcase and reception. Some have used Wholesale Medals [www.wholesalemedals.com](http://www.wholesalemedals.com) and Crown Trophy [www.crowntrophy.com](http://www.crowntrophy.com).
  - The National PTA website offers Reflections awards: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) (click on the PTA store link)
  - Some additional examples of awards may be that the top four in each category/division receive an Award of Excellence certificate and a \$5.00 gift card to Borders or Michaels. Winners can be announced in the PTA newsletter, the Principal's newsletter, and on a bulletin board displayed in the school. You may choose give each participant a certificate with the embossed PTA Reflections sticker on it (stickers are available on the National PTA store web site). Be creative!



### Showcase & Reception

- You can hang all of the entries in the Reflections gallery (perhaps the hallway behind your media center) two weeks before the reception, so that all students and teachers would be able to view the submissions.
- A Showcase & Reception can be held directly after a brief PTA meeting in early December where each child introduces his or her art piece, and receives a certificate & pin. Additional examples for Award Ceremonies would be a breakfast in the morning or a pizza party at lunchtime (great for high school students). Use your imagination & make it your own!

### MCCPTA Reflections Awards - *Ceremony & Gallery*

- All local Reflections chairpersons are on the MCCPTA Reflections Awards Ceremony committee – thanks in advance for your time, energy and support!

Join our Yahoo! Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ReflectionsMCCPTA/>

Lots of useful information is posted there – be sure to join!

***Have fun with your program....the quality of the kids' work will amaze you!***

