Category Guidelines | Dance Choreography

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY is the act of creating movement. The student submitting the entry must be the choreographer. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers but does not have to perform in the entry.

To portray your original choreography, consider the following styles and ensembles: ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, tap, folk Dance, religious dance, dance ensembles (color guard/ indoor guard), ice skating/dancing and gymnastics-floor routine.

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

Copyright: Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material is not acceptable, except for the following:

- If background music is used, *it must be cited on the entry form.*

Submission Requirements

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Entries with added graphics over the video, including lettering, are not accepted.
- Cite background music (if any) on the student entry form.
- Videos must not exceed 5 minutes or 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes).
- Accepted file formats: MP4, MOV, AVI.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's guidelines.

All participants must also follow the official rules for participation

Arts Category Guidelines | Film Production

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 tripod may be used. All screenwriting, directing and editing must be done by the student producer. All entries must include original student footage/media/material. *Digital slide presentations (PowerPoint) are not allowed.*

To portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction, consider the following styles:

- 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.).

Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider plot and characters, visuals (setting, costumes, animation), sound and background music, editing, etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to *provide a brief description of the tools and methods used* in the creation process, including any generative elements.

Copyright: Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters, material downloaded from the internet, copyrighted recorded music or copyrighted photographs or stock images, is not acceptable, except for the following:

- If background music is used, *it must be cited on the entry form.*
- Entries 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.
- Entries may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine or digital media clippings and/or 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.

Submission Requirements

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

- Cite background music (if any) on the student entry form (title, composer and performer).
- Videos must not exceed 5 minutes or 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes).
- Accepted file formats: MP4, MOV, AVI.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

All participants must also follow the official rules for participation.

Arts Category Guidelines | Literature

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.

To portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction, consider the following literary styles: prose, poetry, drama, reflective essay, narrative, short story. *Collections of literary work are not accepted* (e.g., poems, short stories).

Whether an entry displays formal writing technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider plot and characterization, setting and imagery, style, symbolism, etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

The following uses of dictation, transcription, illustration and translation are acceptable:

- Illustrated entries, including books, with pictures drawn by the student author are acceptable; however, *only literary content is judged*.
- Entries may be typed by another person if the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- If the student artist is unable, entries may be dictated to another person and printed or typed in exact words as provided by the student.
- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit entries in their own language. *An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.*
- Translators/transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

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

Submission Requirements

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Entry must not exceed 2,000 words.
- Handwritten and typed entries are accepted on 8.5x11 paper (one sided only). Number each page.
- Accepted file format: PDF.
- Include any student information *on back of entry*.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

All participants must also follow the official rules for participation.

Arts Category Guidelines | Music Composition

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. *A recording of the composition must be included.*

To portray your original composition, consider the following musical styles and instruments: A cappella, blues, choral, country, electronic, hip hop, jazz, Latin, musical, orchestral, pop, R&B, religious, rock, symphonic/concert band and traditional. All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted.

Whether an entry displays formal composition technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider structure, melody, rhythm, instruments, lyrics, emotion, etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to *provide a brief description of the tools and methods used* in the creation process, including any generative elements.

Audio recording (required for all entries):

- Student composers are not required to perform their composition and may submit an entry performed by an individual, group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a composed score.
- Software may be used to produce an audio recording. *Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.*

Music score/notation (required for middle and high school grade divisions only):

- Middle and high school grade divisions must include music score/notation, either traditional or tablature, or a written reflective statement (100 words or less).
- If submitting a reflective statement, *it does not replace the required entry artist statement*. The reflective statement must be distinct from the artist statement and must provide a technical musical explanation of how the music was created. Whereas the artist statement emphasizes the Reflections theme, *a reflective statement emphasizes the musical elements in the creative process.*
- Notation software may be used to create a score. Whether the score is hand-written or software-generated, appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required for the performance.

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

Submission Requirements

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

- Notation is required for the middle and high school divisions. Accepted file formats: PDF.
- Audio recording must not exceed 5 minutes in length and 1,000 MB (1,000 megabytes).
- Accepted file formats: MP3, WAV.
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

All participants must also follow the official rules for participation.

Category Guidelines | Photography

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.

Accepted forms of photography include: A single photo, panoramic, photomontage (one print of multiple original photos), a multiple exposure, negative sandwich or photogram. Original black-and-white and color images.

Non-accepted forms of photography include: Entries with added graphics over the image, including lettering. Collages and collections of photos. Original film (negatives or transparencies) and multidimensional pieces.

Whether an entry displays use of technologies or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider use of objects, lighting and the location to show a clear relation of the photo to the theme.**

Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to *provide a brief description of the tools and methods used* in the creation process, including any generative elements.

Copyright: Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters, material downloaded from the internet, copyrighted photographs or stock images, is not acceptable, except for the following:

- Entries 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.

Submission Requirements

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Print images: between 3x5 to 8x10 inches. Digital images: at least 640x960 pixels and 300 dpi resolution.
- Mounted prints must not exceed 11x14 inches, including matting. Framed photos are not accepted.
- Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG.
- Include any student information *on back of entry.*

- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

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Arts Category Guidelines | Visual Arts

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.

Accepted forms of visual art include: Architecture (2D/3D), carpentry, ceramics, collages, photographic collages (multiple photos cut/pasted), digital art and graphics (drawings/paintings/illustration), crafts, design, dioramas, drawing, fiberwork, jewelry, kites, metal etching/punch work, mobiles, painting, printmaking, sculpture and wind chimes. *Reproductions or enlargements of other artwork are not accepted.*

Whether an entry displays use of formal technique or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses their artistic vision to portray the theme, originality and creativity. **Consider art form, use of color, texture, shape, proportion etc. to show a clear relation to the theme.**

Digital technology and/or software can be used to develop, enhance and/or present an entry but may not provide the primary design and/or concept. Entrants must use the "Additional Details" field to *provide a brief description of the tools and methods used* in the creation process, including any generative elements.

Copyright: Plagiarized entries will be disqualified. Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters, material downloaded from the internet, copyrighted photographs or stock images, is not acceptable, except for the following:

- Entries 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.

- Entries may include portions of existing copyrighted works, such as photographs, magazine or digital media clippings and/or 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.

Submission Requirements

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.

- *2D artwork (e.g., painting)* must include at least one digital image of artwork for judging. Dimensions must not exceed 24x30 inches, including matting. Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material. Framed artwork is not accepted.

- *3D artwork (e.g., sculpture)* must include at least 3 photos of artwork at different angles. Artwork containing loose materials and/or requiring assembly/repair from transporting is not accepted.

- Accepted file formats: JPEG, JPG, PNG.

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- Include any student information *on back of entry.*
- Submit artwork and student entry form according to your PTA's instructions.

All participants must also follow the official rules for participation.