
Dance Choreography Guidance

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY is the act of scripting movement of people. The **choreographer** (the student submitting the entry) is a person who expresses their original thoughts and ideas through the use of scripted movement. The choreographer may be the performer or one of the performers, but the choreographer does not have to perform in the entry.

Consider the following styles and ensembles to portray your original choreography: Ballet, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Folk Dance, Religious Dance, Dance Ensembles (color guard/indoor guard), Ice Skating/Dancing, or Gymnastics-floor Routine.

Consider use of background song(s), props, and the location to show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. 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.

Traditional Dance: The modification of the steps and the interpretation of the dance are considered when judging a traditional dance for creativity and/or originality. 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.

Use of copyrighted music in dance choreography is acceptable when the **title, composer, and performer of any music in the submission is credited** on the student entry form.

Tips 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 recording volume or microphone location.
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.
- Record two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your production.

Submission Instructions:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Performance must not exceed 5 minutes in length or 1 GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Record using a CD, DVD, or flash drive.
- Accepted file formats include: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4.
- Credit background music (title, composer, lyricist, and performer) on the student entry form.
- Label the CD/DVD/flash drive with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division.
- Place CD/DVD/flash drive and student entry form in a full-page closeable manila envelope. Label the manila envelope with name, title of artwork, school, arts category, and division.

Film Production Guidance

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.

FILM PRODUCTION is the process of making moving imagery. The **producer** (the student submitting the entry) is a person who expresses their original thoughts and ideas through the use of images that change over time. The producer is not required to appear in the film but if the producer chooses to appear, a camera tripod may be used. All screenwriting, directing, camera/filming, and editing must be done by the producer. ***PowerPoint or similar presentation is prohibited because most graphic elements are copyrighted.***

Consider the following styles to portray your original film:

- Animation: Hand-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: A nonfiction production using narration, facts, and images.
- Experimental: A production that explores movement, light, and montage.
- Multimedia: 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. The use of software that allows the user to build a virtual environment using prefabricated characters and elements is not permitted. Any software used to create an entry should only enhance and present the work, not provide the primary design.

Use of Other Copyrighted Material

Films 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. Use of background music must be credited on the student entry form.

Tips 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.).
- Make sure the background music (if any) is audible on the recording.
- Record two seconds of silence at the beginning and end of your production.

Submission Instructions

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Performance must not exceed 5 minutes in length or 1 GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Record using a CD, DVD, or flash drive.
- Accepted file formats include: AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4.
- Credit background music (title, composer, lyricist, and performer) on the student entry form.
- Label CD/DVD/flash drive with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division.
- Place CD/DVD/flash drive and student entry form in a full-page closeable manila envelope.
- Label the manila envelope with name, title of artwork, school, arts category, and division.

Literature Guidance

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.

LITERATURE is art in written form. The **author** (the student submitting the entry) is a person who expresses their original 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.

Consider the following literary styles to portray your original work of fiction or nonfiction: Prose, Poetry, Drama, Reflective essay, Narrative, and Short story.

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. Illustrated entries, including books, with pictures drawn by the student author are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.

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 included.
- Students in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may print or type exact words as spoken by the student.
- Transcribers should attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is present 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 in English must accompany the entry.**
- Translators should attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is present in the student's original work.

Submission Instructions:

- 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 2000 words.
- Submit entry on 8.5 x 11 paper (one sided only).
- **For handwritten Literature documents:** Submit original plus two copies.
- **For Literature documents produced on a computer:** Submit electronic file on a CD/DVD/flash drive plus three paper copies.
 - PDF files only
 - Label CD/DVD/flash drive with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division.
- Number each page and write student's name on the back of all pages (original & copies).
- Place CD/DVD/flash drive (if any), printed copies, and student entry form in a full-page closeable manila envelope. Label the manila envelope with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division

Music Composition Guidance

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.

MUSIC COMPOSITION is the process of arranging sounds. The **composer** (the student submitting the entry) is a person who expresses their original thoughts and ideas through the use of sound changes over time. The composer may submit an entry performed by an individual or group and/or make use of a sound library generated performance of a score composed in its entirety by the student. Composers are not required to perform their composition themselves.

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. 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. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

Presentation & Format: The grade division determines whether musical notation is required:

- **Primary, Intermediate, and Special Artist divisions** do not require musical notation. The student may choose to submit iconic (“made-up”), traditional, or tablature notation, if desired.
- **Middle School and High School divisions** require notation, either traditional or tablature.
- 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.
- For electronic copies of notation, accepted file type is PDF.

Tips 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 recording volume or microphone location.
- Record two seconds of silence before and after performing your composition.

Submission Instructions:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Performance must not exceed 5 minutes in length or 1 GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Record using a CD, DVD, or flash drive. Save as a data file, not an audio CD or DVD movie. Video files are not accepted.
- Accepted file formats include: MP3, WMA, WAV, ACC, FLAC.
- Label the CD/DVD/flash drive with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division.
- Provide score/notation (required for middle and high school) on 8.5 x 11 paper (one-sided only). Do not mount or bind. If provided electronically, provide in PDF format.
- Number each score/notation page and write name of the student on the back of all pages
- Place CD/DVD/flash drive, score/notation (if required), and student entry form in a full-page closeable manila envelope. Label the manila envelope with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division.

Photography Guidance

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.

PHOTOGRAPHY is the process of creating a single visual image using a camera.

Photographers may demonstrate the use of photographic techniques conventionally or digitally.

- Accepted types include single photographic print, panoramic, photomontage (one print of multiple original photos), multiple exposure, negative sandwich, or photogram. Black-and-white and color are accepted.
- Non-accepted forms include entries with added graphics over the image (including lettering) (Consider submitting this as Visual Arts.). Film (negatives or transparencies) and multidimensional pieces are not accepted. Collages or collections of photos are not accepted.

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.

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.

Presentation & Format

- A single print must be between 3x5 and 8x10 (no larger than 11x14 with matting).
- Mount all prints on a cardboard mat, poster board, or some other sturdy material.
- Framed photos are not accepted

Submission Instructions:

- Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.
- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Photo may not be smaller than 3 x 5 or larger than 8 x 10
- **Non-digital photo:** If the submission was produced with a non-digital camera and developed by traditional process, submit your printed photo.
- **Digital photo:** If the submission was produced with a digital camera, save the digital file not exceeding 1 GB (one gigabyte) on a CD/DVD/flash drive, and include a print of your photo.
 - Accepted file formats include: JPEG, JPG, GIF, PNG.
 - Digital photos must be high resolution (640 x 960 minimum)
 - Label CD/DVD/flash drive with the title of your artwork, arts category, and division.
- If the photo with mat is large enough, put the student entry form and CD/DVD/flash drive (if any) in a clear sheet protector, and attach to the back of the matted photo. Otherwise, put the photo and entry form and CD/DVD/flash drive (if any) in a full-page closeable manila envelope.
 - Label the manila envelope if used with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division
 - **DO NOT** attach student entry form or sheet protector directly to the photo.
 - If you are submitting an unmatted photo, place it in a full-page closeable manila envelope.

Visual Arts Guidance

All participants must also follow Official Rules for Participation.

VISUAL ARTS includes many art forms that are used to create images or scenes. Accepted forms of visual art includes but is not limited to: 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. 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 his or her artistic vision to portray the theme, originality, and creativity.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material, including any copyrighted cartoon characters or likeness, 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.
- 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.

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)
 - Dimensions must not exceed 24 inches x 30 inches, including matting.
 - Framed artwork and artwork containing loose materials is not accepted.
 - Paper entries must be mounted on sturdy material.
 - If the artwork with mat is large enough, put the student entry form in a clear sheet protector, and attach to the back of the mounted artwork. Otherwise, put the artwork and entry form in a full-page re-sealable manila envelope.
 - **DO NOT** attach student entry form or sheet protector directly to unmounted artwork.
- 3D artwork (e.g. sculpture)
 - Must be able to be moved 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 assembly or repair after transporting will be disqualified.
 - Place the 3 high-resolution photos (300 dpi or higher) and student entry form in a full page closeable manila envelope that accompanies the artwork.
 - Label the entry and packaging with name, title of artwork, arts category and division.
- Label the manila envelope (if used) with name, title of artwork, arts category, and division.

Special Artist Division Rules

The Special Artist division of the National PTA Reflections Program is optional at state and local levels. Maryland PTA makes the Special Artist division available to Maryland local PTAs.

Student 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 National PTA Reflections 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 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 an impairment.

Student Entry Process:

Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the National PTA Reflections Program:

- Option 1. Enter in traditional grade divisions: Qualifying students follow all arts category rules, and may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children, but do receive accommodation to submit Reflections entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. They are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.
 - Grade Divisions: Regardless of age, students with special needs may enter the National PTA Reflections Program in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. The divisions are as follows:

Primary: preschool – grade 2	Middle School: grades 6 – 8
Intermediate: grades 3 – 5	High School: grades 9 – 12
- Option 2. Enter in Special Artist division: Qualifying students entering this non-graded division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.
 - Parent or Guardian Signature: The student and family will complete a student entry form. A parent or guardian signature is required for all students entering the program in the Special Artist division, regardless of the student's age.
 - Judging Procedure and Awards: At the national level, Special Artist entries will be judged by expert judges in each arts category. The top Special Artist entry from each of the six arts categories will then be reviewed. One Special Artist from across all arts categories will be selected to receive an Outstanding Interpretation Award and will be recognized at National PTA's Annual Convention. Up to five additional Special Artists may be selected to receive national Awards of Excellence.

Special Artist Accommodations and Guidelines:

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:
 - 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.