

Local, Council, District and Region Leaders,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Reflections year as we ask our children and youth to express the theme "I Matter Because..." Thank you for volunteering to lead this enriching cultural arts program for the students in your community, especially in these challenging times!

Illinois PTA is proud to be able to offer this National program to our students. We also sincerely appreciate each Local Reflections Chair, Council Chair, District and Region Chair, and all the individuals who believe in this program and the impact the arts can make for our students.

The Reflections Art Program is a rewarding experience for students, parents, and volunteers. Illinois PTA's goal is to support our leaders in maximizing the positive impact on students, while providing tools to help guide you through the program from start to finish. Considering safety is utmost for all involved, we offer you both physical and virtual options for submitting your entries this year.

### **Getting Started!**

As you begin to review this year's materials, we'd like to draw your attention to the following. All of the required documents are available on the Illinois PTA Website under Leadership Resources-Reflections, if your PTA is registered for the 2020-2021 school year and is in good standing:

- A checklist for students, parents, and leaders to assist with the submission process and help alleviate submission issues for state judging, is provided.
- Leaders and judges should be sure to read through the category rule sheets. Being familiar with the rules will save your students from being disqualified at state level judging for a rule violation.
- Make note of the required Advancing Projects Spreadsheet and fillable Participation Forms for each level of judging. Each of these is required to be filled out completely and accurately. PTA specific information can be obtained from your President or Region/District Director.
- Due to the increased participation of the Special Artist category, this category will now have the same number of advancing submissions for your Council, District, and Region as the other categories.
- Leaders responsible for submitting final entries to the State level, please email the Advancing Spreadsheet and Participation Form to [reflections@illinoispta.org](mailto:reflections@illinoispta.org) and include a hard copy of these documents in your package (if providing physical entries), as your area's submissions move forward.
- **NOTE: Make sure that all Entry Forms contain complete and accurate information from the project submitter. The top portion of the entry form contains information about your PTA that should be completely filled in prior to distribution to participants. This information is available from your President through Member Hub. Please be sure to use your PTA Region or District Number, not your school district number. With the volume of projects received at the State level, we do not have the ability to confirm information from the local level where projects originate. A project that comes to the State level with an incomplete or inaccurate Entry Form may be disqualified.**
  - **Deadline for projects to be advanced to Illinois PTA is January 15, 2021.**  
(Local/council PTAs, districts and regions will need to determine their own deadlines for submission allowing ample time for judging in order to meet the State Deadline)
- Then get ready to celebrate! Program ribbons and more are available at the [Illinois PTA Online Store](#).

We look forward to working with you this Reflections season. If you have any questions about the program please feel free to contact Illinois PTA at [reflections@illinoispta.org](mailto:reflections@illinoispta.org).

