ARTS EDUCATION IS A STUDENT RIGHT!

Visit www.CAPTA.org/Arts-Education to learn what steps you can take to improve arts education in our public schools!
The PTA Reflections Art Program is a national arts recognition and achievement program for students and was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since inception, over 10 million students across the nation have participated. The Reflections Art Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Participation in the Reflections Art Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process which challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art supporting a specific theme.

Depending on local PTA guidelines, students may enter in as many categories as they choose to and may submit more than one work of art in any of the categories listed below. Only original works of art, created specifically for the Reflections Art Program are accepted.

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

Student works are reviewed against others in the same division, with emphasis on how a student interprets their submission to the theme. This allows recognition of artworks by appropriate developmental age and skill levels.

- Primary - Preschool to Grade 2
- Intermediate - Grades 3 - 5
- Middle School - Grades 6 - 8
- High School - Grades 9 - 12
- Special Artist - Any Grade

The Reflections Art Program is structured for PTAs to recognize students at the local unit, council, district, state and national PTA levels. Once entries reach the level of the California State PTA, entries may be selected for submission to the National PTA for review. National PTA Outstanding Interpretation entries are recognized at the annual National PTA convention. National PTA Outstanding Interpretation, Award of Excellence and Award of Merit entries may be displayed as part of the program’s traveling exhibit.

Each year, students are invited to submit themes for the annual Reflections Art Program that will inspire young artists to create original works.

California State PTA’s Theme Search 2022-23 finalists going to National PTA judging are:

- A Single Act of Kindness
  Submitted by Shreya Srinivas
  Irvington High School PTSA
  Peralta District PTA

- Covid 2020: A time for reflections, family, life...things that matter
  Submitted by Ayush Garg
  Peterson Middle School PTSA
  Sixth District PTA

- Friendship is...
  Submitted by Leianna Mendoza
  Theodore Roosevelt Elementary PTA
  First District PTA

- I am Proud of...
  Submitted by Agustin Reyes
  Charter Oak High School PTSA
  First District PTA

- Making Memories
  Submitted by Julianna Laciura
  Las Flores Middle School PTSA
  Fourth District PTA

The theme for the 2021-22 Reflection program is “I Will Change the World By...”
I Matter Because this year has been a struggle for my culture. The Hate that we are given, has torn me apart. I just want this dance to let people know that we won’t go silent until our voices are heard. Let this dance give a message of where we have come from and we have always stood for Freedom. All lives do matter, but we are not added to that equation all the time. We won’t go silent.

Visit https://vimeo.com/535028002 to watch a video of Islelamia’s choreography.

I matter because I bring joy to others. I bring joy through dance by participating and being kind to my teacher and friends. I can express my joy through dance. My family gets joy watching me dance and that makes me happy. In my family, I play with my brothers and mom and dad. I also take care of our dogs. At school, I help my friends and my teacher. I always show kindness and respect to everyone.

Visit https://vimeo.com/535056534 to watch a video of Avery’s choreography.
SAVANNAH CARSON

My Hands can change the world

Grade: 3
Intermediate Division
Rolling Hills Elementary School
Fourth District PTA

I matter because even though I am little I can use my hands to change the world. It’s not just my hands, but all but my thoughts and actions can change the world. I am going to change the world by being kind. I am going to show kindness to others and help people to do the same. Like the song says “In the end, only kindness matters”. Please be kind and help change the world.

Visit https://vimeo.com/535029961 to watch a video of Savannah’s choreography.

ALICE FINKELSTEIN

United Existence

Grade: 10
High School Division
Carlmont High School
Seventeenth District PTA

In this piece, I express my place in this world and how I come to realize that I matter. At first, I do not understand the role that I have, but then suddenly, I become aware that everyone in this world is interconnected: we rely on each other for help and support, and everyone is capable of making others feel loved, appreciated, and significant. This is the manifestation of why I matter, and why everyone else in this world does. I matter because I have the power to make others matter. Together, we have the power to transform our world.

Visit https://vimeo.com/535035226 to watch a video of Alice’s choreography.

MARK WAGNER

I Speak With My Dancing

Special Artist Division
Dana Hills High School
Fourth District PTA

I matter because I am different. I speak with my dancing.

Visit https://vimeo.com/535041977 to watch a video of Mark’s choreography.
Outstanding Interpretation Winner

GABRIELA KORSZYK

Meant to Be
Special Artist Division
Covina High School
First District PTA

I matter because I am worth it. God doesn’t make mistakes. I am handicapped but I’m surrounded by loving people and I’m grateful for it. I’m meant to be.

NAMYA JHA

I matter because
Grade: 2
Primary Division
Foster City Elementary School
Seventeenth District PTA

This story revolves around a girl who started to doubt herself if she really matters and how her cute little pups made her realize that she definitely matters. Everyone and everything in this world matters. It’s the matter of realization, how special we are. I had downloaded background pictures and sound from internet (Google images and background music from mixkit.co)
Visit https://vimeo.com/537469363 to watch Namya’s film.
ALEXANDRIA
(JORDAN) SCHNEIDER

Grade: 10
High School Division
Laguna Beach High School
Fourth District PTA

Each Player Matters

The year 2020 has presented many adversities and tremendous amounts of change. My work presents that each player matters within a team. I chose to display my teammates to show that their actions impact the team significantly. Hence, their efforts have affected me for the better, helping me stay motivated despite the changes.


KANE PILAPIL

Smile
Grade: 3
Intermediate Division
Vista Elementary School
Twelfth District PTA

I think everyone is special in their own way, no matter their size, shape, color, or colors. When someone knows they’re special, they smile.

Visit https://vimeo.com/537482396 to watch Kane’s film.

HAILEY JOHNSTON

I Matter Because I’m Me
Grade: 7
Middle School Division
Nick G. Parras Middle School
Thirty-Third District PTA

I Matter Because is a question you ask yourself all the time but you don’t have to have a reason. You matter because you are you and THAT is what matters.

I wrote a few paragraphs on the topic “I Matter Because.”
Visit https://bit.ly/2R2SpFx to read the rest of Victoria’s essay.

“I Matter Because…”
Three words that had me analyzing what I have done to make myself matter to others. After lots of pondering and pacing, I concluded that I hadn’t done anything to almost everyone and everything in the world. My actions in life, good or bad, have only affected the people around me, so it is doubtful that my actions have impacted you directly. Everyone has done a random act of kindness in their lives, even if it was just smiling at the young woman in front of you while you waited for your coffee in the morning. Sure, the young woman was probably grateful. She probably smiled back at you before picking up her drink, but your smile, as friendly as it was for her, will not affect anybody else. Fifteen minutes later, the young woman may not even remember that you smiled at her that morning; work filled her head with more pressing matters as soon as she walked into the office. But neither of those reasons discourage us from smiling at the crossing guard as you leave the coffee shop and the other people you made eye contact with while walking down the street.

Outstanding Interpretation Winner

VICTORIA LEHMAN

Cafés, Fleeting Smiles, and Why I Matter
Grade: 9
High School Division
Carlmont High School
Seventeenth District PTA

I wrote a few paragraphs on the topic “I Matter Because.”
Visit https://bit.ly/2R2SpFx to read the rest of Victoria’s essay.

AREN ZAKARIAN

I Matter Because...
Special Artist
Valley View Elementary School
First District PTA

Through my poem I wanted to let people know about things that matter to me as someone with autism, like being part of a community that respects and accepts us.
EQUITY, EQUALITY, DISCORD AND DISUNITY

I Matter Because

I matter because I am funny and smart, kind and caring, thoughtful, helpful, and creative.
I like to laugh, I love singing.
(A lot.)

Some mornings I sing,
"Good morning, good morning,
to you, you and you!
I explain things in
simple terms.

I have my books
next to my computer.
My class books should not
be locked up in a shed
with a heavy lock and a chain
around them.

I make fun assignments.
A Goosepimples project.
Weekly spelling sentences.
Cooking classes.
An All About Me booklet.
Bats and haunted houses.

I feel so frustrated when
I'm frozen.
But I try to hide it
Because my students are usually
frustrated too.
On those days,
I get really excited for yoga!

If the class can
still hear me,
I sing.
"I'm Waiting!"
"I'm Waiting!"

I miss seeing my class
in person.
And they miss me too.

I MATTER AND I AM AWESOME!

• AWARD OF EXCELLENCE •

Everybody knows that teachers matter, but teachers may not know how much they matter. I named my poem "Things My Teacher Should Tell Herself" because it's hard to do school over zoom and some of the work is hard to do alone. My teacher should tell herself that she's doing her best. Visit https://bit.ly/3wHEsMw to read a larger version of Eva's poem.

THINGS MY TEACHER SHOULD TELL HERSELF

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kind and caring,
thoughtful, helpful,
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I MATTER AND I AM AWESOME!
ANDREW LEE

Legacy of Sound
Grade 12
High School Division
American High School
Peralta District PTA

This composition is my journal. It is a reflection of my personal thoughts and emotions, my interactions with the world, my intermixed cultures, and my growth as a human being. For me, the purpose of life is to influence others. When I see my work touch an audience, it means that I was able to reach them, that my very existence was able to leave an impact on someone else. Therefore, this piece is my attempt to impact others through my self-reflection. My value lies within my legacy, and my legacy lies within my music.


SIVALUXMY

SIVALOGESWARAN

You know that I matter for everything
Grade: 1
Primary Division
Northwood Elementary School
Sixth District PTA

This year, the number of natural disasters has increased in the US. I live in San Jose, California. I experienced earthquake, wild fire, air pollution, and global warming. I am not able leave my house because of Covid-19 and smoke from the wildfire. But, staying inside my house is also not safe when there is an earthquake. I am a little girl I have lots of dreams. When I grow up I will invent new technologies to solve all these problems to make this world a safe place for all. Therefore, I matter to this world now more than ever.

ELLIE LAM
A Ripple of Kindness
Grade: 5
Intermediate Division
Longden Avenue Elementary School
First District PTA

I matter because I make a difference to the world by smiling, caring for others, and showing them kindness. This is especially important during the pandemic, where a lot of people are losing their jobs and loved ones. Smiling, caring for others, and showing kindness can make a person feel better about themselves throughout the day. By showing others you care, that person will in return pay it forward to others, creating a ripple effect and making the world better. I wrote this song to dedicate it to those who lost their jobs and loved ones.

EVELYN SUGAPONG
Mosaic
Grade: 8
Middle School Division
Bonita Vista Middle School
Ninth District PTA

Mosaic means a “decoration made by inlaying small pieces of variously colored material to form pictures or patterns.” All the diverse, colorful, and varied pieces of a mosaic are exactly what makes a mosaic so beautiful. The word “mosaic” inspired me to create a music composition on the theme “I Matter Because…” to represent how a symphony of different instruments with distinctive qualities blend together harmoniously. In society, each individual person is like a piece of a mosaic. Everyone is special and unique and everyone can make a beautiful contribution to the world. Our differences make us valued and important.

GABRIELA KORSZYK
Meant to Be
Special Artist Division
Covina High School
First District PTA

I matter because I’m worth it. God doesn’t make mistakes. I’m handicapped but I’m surrounded by loving people and I’m grateful for it. I’m meant to be.
AARON MCKEEMAN

Perspective
Grade: 11
High School Division
Carlsbad High School
Ninth District PTA

I have a different perspective than a lot of people. That doesn’t make me matter any less. My unique perspective is something I can contribute. I know where I want to go in life, but sometimes it’s hard to know how to get there. I hope everyone can get where they want to go in life because we all have dreams and goals that matter. I matter because of exactly who I am.

REHAN HAAZIQ

I matter because, only I can reflect myself
Grade: 1
Primary Division
Northwood Elementary School
Sixth District PTA

I Matter Because, only I can reflect myself. Only I can bring My ideas to this world. Only I can bring My imagination to this world. Only I can bring My discoveries to this world. Only I can bring My service to this world.
AYAAN MAMOOLA

Photography

Grade: 4
Intermediate Division
Audubon Elementary School
Seventeenth District PTA

Like every living being on this planet has a purpose, like these trees which stand tall, like the sunlight which gives them life, as a living being, I too have a purpose in this Universe.

LUKAS SHEN

Mitakuye Oyasin

Grade: 6
Middle School Division
Foothills Middle School
First District PTA

Mitakuye Oyasin is a phrase from the Lakota language that my dad introduced me to. It means “we are all related”. I was looking through a photography magazine, and I saw a picture of a Native American with war paint. I created a graphic of different colored lines, each representing a different ethnicity. With a black background behind me, I projected the graphic on my face and used a remote to take this self portrait. We’re all related because all ethnicities make up the human race. We don’t need to do anything to matter. We matter simply because we exist.

KOTARO FUJITA

Because I am a Japanese American

Special Artist
South High School
Thirty-Third District PTA

This family photo of my parents, sister and my hand. My parents came from Japan 30 years ago. I was born in the United States. I love both America and Japan. I want to be a bridge between the two Countries.
• AWARD OF EXCELLENCE •

VISUAL ARTS

Outstanding Interpretation Winner

JACOB MEDINA
I Make a Difference
Grade: 5
Intermediate Division
Antelope Hills Elementary School
Twenty-Third District PTA

To describe my work, I put little pictures together and move it to where I think it looks good. This art has 5 layers and different dimensions that I put together to make into one piece of art. My art was made to show how big the universe is. Even if you find something new that is bad or scary you can still make a difference to the world. I matter to every layer of life from the grass all the way to the universe.

XAVIER ZHANG
I Matter Because I Care!
Grade: 2
Primary Division
Cerritos Elementary School
Thirty-Third District PTA

I matter because I care!
I care about nature. I care about people.
I help fire fighters in fighting the wildfire.
I have got a pet whale to help me and we worked together to save animals and save people. We are all heroes!
JUNGYUN (CHLOE) CHOI
Because I Can
Grade: 12
High School Division
Westview High School
Ninth District PTA

The boy in an astronaut helmet symbolizes the endless possibilities one has. An individual's ability to become anything, do anything makes us matter for who we are: our individuality. For the background, I focused on the positive ways I contribute to society (voting, recycling, and spreading kindness) and characteristics that shape who I am (art and learning). For my last Reflection entry, I wanted to create a piece that showcases whom I am while connecting with the viewers. The focus of this piece is to inspire viewers to recognize their uniqueness and their power to create change.

Marilyn JIA
Because I Love You
Grade: 8
Middle School Division
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
Thirty-Second District PTA

I remember when I first heard this year’s prompt, my dad looked at me immediately. Because you are my daughter, he said. You matter. I wanted to use the flowers in my artwork to represent the pieces of other people that we carry with us, the values that we have learned from our loved ones. We all impact each other, from my parents who traveled across the world for me to strangers walking by. I love someone, and someone loves me. We are all connected - this is why we all matter, and it is enough.

Jeremy Rhee
I Matter BC I Appreciate My Teachers
Special Artist Division
Mountain Avenue Elementary School
First District PTA

I have a lot of worries and thoughts like clouds but my life is grateful. I can’t meet friends or go to school, but I give my flower to all my teachers because they help me out at zoom, fill my needs at virtual classes.
### Visual Arts

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<th>Artist Name</th>
<th>Division/Grade</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>District</th>
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<td>Shreya Verma</td>
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<td>David Rubalcava</td>
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<td>Robert Anaya</td>
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<td>Darshan Rengarajan</td>
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<td>Roosevelt ES</td>
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### Literature

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<th>Artist Name</th>
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<td>Emma Rangel</td>
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### Music Composition

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<td>Joseph Absi</td>
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### Dance Choreography

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### Film Production

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