

2020-2021 Expressions Rules

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Students should read through all of the rules to ensure their entry does not get disqualified.
- No sculpture or 3-D entries are allowed. See the section at the end of these rules with suggestions about alternate ways to incorporate 3-D artwork into an entry that complies with these rules and won't get disqualified.
- No student may submit more than two entries in each arts category.
- For the safety of everyone involved, no frames of any sort are allowed. Foam core is best for mounting artwork.
- Filmmaking and Instrumental/Voice Performance entries must be uploaded to the website noted in the rules. Garage Band cannot be used. NO EXCEPTIONS
- Instrumental performance entries do not have to be original and do not have to be scored. See the rules below.
- PowerPoint presentations are not accepted for Filmmaking entries.
- All entries must reflect appropriate K-6 material for all categories. Any entry deemed to include inappropriate material will be disqualified.
- Comments about your artistic process for judging consideration should be included in your artistic statement on the entry form.

1. ENTRY FORMS: EVERY entry should be accompanied by a completed online entry form, electronically signed by both the student and the parent. Two entries per category per student will be accepted. Note that group entries count towards the two entry limit. To facilitate our blind judging, please do not put the name of the student on the artwork. Official labels are provided at entry drop off.

2. JUDGING: All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme. All decisions of judges and are non-reviewable. Judges are professionals in their field. No committee members are judges.

- *Award Recipient Notification:* The PTO Elementary Arts Council will award First, Second and Third places and two Honorable Mentions for each art area for each grade bracket.
- *Rules Regarding Originality and Plagiarism:* All entries should be the work of the student(s). Adults may facilitate the work, but not alter its creative integrity. Entries may not be plagiarized. Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings or inventions as one's own. Disqualification for plagiarism may be determined by the judges and may not be questioned.

Read the following rules for each art area:

CREATIVE WRITING RULES

Description: May be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted.

Presentation:

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- Entries may be typed and saved as a pdf.
- Group entries are acceptable. All group entry rules apply.
- All pages should be numbered.
- Illustrated entries, including "books", with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Format:

- Submit entries online as a pdf file only.
- Assistance-Dictation and Typing:

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the typed version reflects the original work. Students who are physically challenged or students in Kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student's original work.

INSTRUMENTAL/VOICE PERFORMANCE RULES

Description: Entry must be a recording of the student performing a musical instrument or performing with their voice (either an original piece or their interpretation of a musical piece).

- Instrumental Performance submissions must be uploaded in a video (not audio) format.
- Instrumental Performance judges will be instructed to only listen to the audio portion of the upload and not to judge on visual elements. Entries will be evaluated according to: (1) Technique; (2) Musical Appeal; and (3) Originality.
- The student entering must be the one performing the piece.
- Special note about Instrumental/Voice Performance: Students will be judged on Instrumental/Voice Performance. All entries MUST reflect appropriate K-6 material (including audio, lyrics, etc.) Judges make these decisions and they are not reviewable.
- Entries must not exceed 5 minutes.
- Students make work individually or in groups (maximum number of 4 students). The piece must be entered in the grade level of the oldest student in the group.
- With group entries, one parent is responsible for submitting one online entry form and must sign that the rules have been reviewed, understood and followed by all parents and entrants in group.

Instrumental/Voice Performance entries must be made in video format online.

The link to view directions for uploading video is included in step 5 on the general information page.

Please remember to complete step 6 "Entry Form" on the general information page as well as upload your video for this category.

PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Description: The student entering the contest must take the photograph being submitted.

- "Selfies" are discouraged unless they have independent artistic merit.
- Photo entry must be an original black-and-white or color image, or a group of images, taken by the student entering.
- Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally. However, photographs with added graphics over the image, including lettering, are NOT acceptable as photography entries. You must submit those as Visual Arts.
- The entry may incorporate such techniques as montage, multiple exposure, negative sandwiches, and photograms. Images may be manipulated conventionally or digitally.
- Images should demonstrate the student's proper use of photographic techniques such as depth of field and exposure.
- The images may be created using various lenses, filters, and light sources.
- Presentation:
 - Print the entries on paper or photographic paper only.
 - Size limit: No larger than 24 x 30
 - Mount all prints on foam core, cardboard mat, or poster board.
 - Protecting the work with shrink-wrap or a transparent plastic cover is optional but highly recommended.
 - NO FRAMES OF ANY SORT ALLOWED. Foam core is recommended for mounting artwork.

FILMMAKING RULES

Description: A student must film the video.

- A video entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction relating to the current Expressions theme.
- Entries must not exceed 5 minutes and may be with or without sound.
- Students may work individually or in groups (maximum number of 4 students). The piece must be entered in the grade level of the oldest student in the group.
- With group entries, one parent is responsible for submitting one online entry form and must sign that the rules have been reviewed, understood and followed by all parents and entrants in group.
- One parent's signature is required on the group entry form and represents that each parent and entrant has reviewed, understands and followed the rules.
- The film needs to be made with the student(s) serving in the key creative roles (writer, director, camera person, and editor).
- All entries MUST reflect appropriate K-6 material (including any audio, lyrics, etc).
- If using a computer, the student(s) must do all of the work. Student filmmakers are welcome to star in their own films.
- The entry will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.
- If your student performs a special skill in the video, your chances of being judged favorably increase if elements of videography are incorporated into the video.
- If a student cannot video himself/herself, have another student video the entry then enter as a group. Parents may NOT be the videographers.
- NOTE: Documentary films often include interviews and the student(s) must be the one to ask the questions, but they do not have to be seen onscreen or even include the sound of their voice in the film. Many documentary films cut the questions, so the student can decide creatively whether to hear them onscreen.
- Student filmmakers are welcome to star in their own films and can film themselves or have another student film them and enter as a group project. Parents may NOT be the videographers.
- Copyrighted Material:
- Video entries may use copyrighted music, but cannot be uploaded online ("YouTube or Vimeo") for general audiences.
- The title, composer and performer of any music used must be credited and documented on the Student Entry form (in the Artist's statement).
- If students want copyrighted cleared music that can be played to general audiences, tracks are available for download from www.jamendo.com, www.ccmixer.com, and www.vimeo.com/musicstore.
- Video entries must be made online.

The link to view directions for uploading videos is included in step 5 on the general information page. Please remember to complete step 6 "Entry Form" on the general information pages as well as upload your video for this category.

VISUAL ARTS RULES

Description: A Visual Arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork that relates to the current Expressions' theme.

- Please confirm that work is 100% their own from start to finish. (no parent/teacher borders or outlines)
- It cannot be 3-D, but may be thin multi-media attached well so that art is not damaged while transporting for judging and display.
- 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.

- A collage should be judged for its whole, not by its parts, and whether the resulting work stands as a creative, original work of art on its own.

Presentation:

- No sculptures or 3-D works of art allowed
- All art must not be 3-D, but flat items, such as string, screening and multimedia that lay flat and are firmly glued to the surface may be used. Please do not use any three-dimensional items such as noodles, beans, puff balls, or candy that stick up from the surface of a work. Using these 3D items will cause the work to be disqualified.
- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas. Size limit: No larger than 24x30
- NO FRAMES OF ANY SORT ALLOWED. Foam core is recommended for mounting artwork.
- Works Not Accepted: Sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, and other 3-D artwork; reproductions or enlargements of other artwork
- If a student would like to display a 3-D item they want to make or have made they should try to be creative & think of how the item could be used in a way that fits into one of the categories and comply with the rules. As an example, a student could video themselves making the 3-D artwork, pretending with the item, using it in a creative way, or describing how or why they wanted to make it, etc. They could take a photograph of the completed work and submit it in the photography or visual arts categories. They could write about it and include a photograph with their writing entry. The intention of the Arts Committee is to encourage creativity of our students. We don't want to discourage any student from working in a medium or format that interests them, but we cannot easily transport 3-D artwork without damaging the items, and part of entering a contest is figuring out how to submit an entry that complies with the rules of the contest. Please encourage your student to read these rules all the way through and think about how their piece best fits within these rules.