

2023-2024 Expressions Rules

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Students and parents should **read through all the rules** to ensure their entry does not get disqualified.
- **Online registration forms for all entries are due Monday, January 22, 2024, at 11:59pm.**
- **Entries in ALL categories are due on Thursday, January 25, 2024.** Instrumental/Voice, Filmmaking, and Creative Writing entries must be uploaded online and are due by noon. Visual Arts and Photography entries will be physically turned in on January 25 following procedures at each school.
- Students are limited to **two entries in each category**.
- **An entry cannot exceed 24 in x 30 in.**
- **Group entries** can include **no more than four students** and should be registered online one time in the **grade bracket of the oldest participant**.
- **No 3-D entries** or sculptures allowed. There is a section at the end of these rules that suggests alternate ways to submit compliant 3-D artwork.
- For the safety of everyone involved, **no frames of any sort** are allowed. Foam core is best for mounting artwork.
- **Garage Band cannot be used. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Instrumental/Voice entries do not have to be original and do not have to be scored. See the rules below.
- **PowerPoint presentations cannot be used** for Filmmaking.
- All entries must reflect **appropriate K-6 material** for all categories. Any entry deemed to include inappropriate material will be disqualified.
- To facilitate our blind judging, please do not put the name of the student on the front of the artwork. Official labels will be provided at drop off.

REGISTRATION FORMS: Online registration forms are required for EVERY entry in ALL categories and must be electronically signed by both the student and the parent. Each student can submit ONLY two entries per category, with group entries counting towards that limit.

JUDGING: Entries will first be judged in individual school competitions. Winning entries from each school will then be judged in a district competition. All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, interpretation of the theme, and the artist's statement on the entry form. Judges are professionals in their field, and all decisions are final. No committee members are judges.

- *Award Recipient Notification:* The PTO Elementary Arts Council will award First, Second, and Third places as well as two Honorable Mentions for each art area for each grade bracket. Winners in each school competition will be announced by individual schools. Winners in the district competition will be invited to and announced during a district reception on March 7, 2024.
- *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. A judge's decision to disqualify an entry for plagiarism may not be questioned.

Carefully review the following rules for each category.

CREATIVE WRITING

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

- Entries must be uploaded online as a PDF.
- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed but must be submitted digitally.
- 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.

Presentation:

- Must be submitted online as a PDF.
- Entries may be typed or handwritten; if not created digitally, they must be scanned and submitted as a PDF.
- Original documents may be created on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8½ in. x 11 in. in size.
- Assistance-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 attached.
 - 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

Description: A recording of the student performing with a musical instrument or with their voice (either an original piece or their interpretation/performance of a non-original musical piece).

- Entries must not exceed 5 minutes.
- Submissions must be uploaded online 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 any 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.
- All entries MUST reflect appropriate K-6 material (including audio, lyrics, etc.) A judge's decision to disqualify an entry as inappropriate is final.
- Students may work individually or in groups (max. of 4 students). The piece must be entered in the grade bracket of the oldest student in the group.
- With group entries, one parent should submit a single online entry form, with his or her signature acknowledging that the rules have been reviewed, understood, and followed by all parents and entrants in the group.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Description: A photograph taken by the student entering the photograph.

- "Selfies" are discouraged unless they have independent artistic merit.
- The image 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 but should be submitted in the Visual Arts category.
- 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.
- The entry may be no larger than 24 in. x 30 in.
- 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.

FILMMAKING

Description: An original fiction or nonfiction film created and filmed by the entering student(s).

- The film must be made with the student(s) serving in all roles (writer, director, camera person, and editor). Students may star in their own films.
- If a student cannot video himself/herself, another student must video the entry and enter as a group. Parents may NOT be the videographers.
- Entries must not exceed 5 minutes and may be with or without sound.
- Entries must be uploaded online.
- Students may work individually or in groups (max. of 4 students), with the entry made in the age bracket of the oldest student in the group.
- With group entries, one parent should submit a single online entry form, with his or her signature acknowledging that the rules have been reviewed, understood, and followed by all parents and entrants in the group.
- Entries MUST reflect appropriate K-6 material (including audio, lyrics, etc.)
- If using a computer, the student(s) must do all of the work.
- The entry will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision. 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 also incorporated.
- NOTE: Documentary films often include interviews. The student(s) must be the one to ask the questions, but they do not have to be seen onscreen or include the sound of their voice. Many documentary films cut the questions, so the student can decide creatively whether to hear them on screen.
- Copyrighted Material:
 - Video entries may use copyrighted music, but cannot be uploaded online ("YouTube or Vimeo") for general audiences.

(Filmmaking, cont.)

- 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.

VISUAL ARTS

Description: An original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work, or computer-generated artwork.

- The entry must be completely created by the entering student (no parent/teacher borders or outlines)
- The entry cannot be 3-D, but may be thin multi-media attached well so that art is not damaged while transporting for judging and display. Flat items, such as string, screening, and multimedia that lay flat and are firmly glued to the surface may be used. Three-dimensional items such as noodles, beans, puff balls, or candy that stick up from the surface of a work are not permitted.
- 3-D items will be disqualified.
- 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 will 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:

- Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold pressboard, or canvas.
- The entry may be no larger than 24 in. x 30 in.
- NO FRAMES OF ANY SORT ALLOWED. Foam core is recommended for mounting artwork.

3-D Alternatives

If a student would like to submit a 3-D piece, they should try to be creative & think of how the item could be presented in compliance with the rules. As an example, a student could video themselves making the 3-D artwork, describing how or why they wanted to make it, or using it in a creative way. A student could also take a photograph of the completed work and submit it in the photography or visual arts categories. A student could write about the piece and include a photograph in a creative writing entry. The Arts Committee does not want to discourage any student from working in a medium or format that interests them, but 3-D artwork cannot easily be transported or stored without risk of damage. Please encourage your student to read these rules all the way through and think about how their piece best fits within these rules.