Programs Together with Awards

Summer Leadership Conference 2023
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Topics

• Arts
• Literacy
• Awards
Kids who participate in the ARTS develop:

- Communication
- Proficiency
- Pride
- Tolerance
- Physical Health
- Improved
- Memory
- Focus
- Commitment
- Collaborative Skills
- Healthy Risk-Taking
- Finesse
- Inspiration
- Confidence
- Acuity
- Problem-Solving
- Abilities

What more could you ask for?
Why the Arts are so Important

• Working in the arts helps learners to develop creative problem-solving skills.
• Teaching through the arts can present difficult concepts visually, making them easier to understand.
• Creating/experiencing art helps children with the development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, risk-taking, and inventiveness. For example, visual arts teach learners about color, layout, perspective, and balance: all techniques that are necessary in presentations (visual, digital) of academic work.
  • Arts experiences boost critical thinking.
  • Strengthens communities and shapes culture.
Why Arts Education is Important

• Increases student engagement

• Important for student growth and improvement

• Enhances creativity

• Sharpens critical intellectual skills

• Helps with language skills, math skills and enriches other subject areas

• Increases capacity for leadership
How Can PTA Support the Arts

• Run a Reflections Program.
• Encourage students to submit a Reflections Theme.
• Advocate for arts education and funding at Board of Ed meetings.
National PTA® Reflections

2023-2024
Call for Entries!
I am Hopeful Because...
Explore the arts and express yourself!

Learn more and get involved!
PTA.org/Reflections
Run a Reflections Program

• Find out when and how your Region is accepting entries and plan accordingly.
• Modify entry form and advertise your program.
• Advance your entries to Region.
• Celebrate your artists! Kids love rewards!

Dance Choreography    Music Composition
Film Production    Photography
Literature    Visual Arts
Reflections Theme Search

The Reflections program theme is student-selected and changes annually.

Students submit their themes in the Annual Theme Search Contest directly to NYS PTA.

More details on entry submissions will be provided in early Fall. NYS PTA chooses 5 entries to advance to National PTA. One national winner is selected by National PTA in February.

The winning student will also receive a $100 award and national recognition.
Advocate for Arts in Education

- Speak up at Board of Education meetings. Write your Board of Ed Trustees. Explain why arts education is essential for students and the community.

- Make sure Board of Ed members, superintendent, principal(s) know about all your PTA Arts efforts—brag about your Reflections winners, display the artwork.

- Partner with community spaces—library, local dance studios, art teachers—to strengthen support for arts in education.

- Arm yourself with NYS PTA’s Position Paper “Integrating the Arts into Education” and share with school administrators and Board of Ed.
Literacy

The more that you **READ**, the more things you will **KNOW**.
The more that you **Learn**, the more places you’ll **GO**.
What is Literacy?

- Most commonly defined as the ability to read and write
- Encompasses complex visual and digital media as well as printed material
- Different cultures will have different perceptions of literacy
- Literacy is the way that we interact with the world around us
Why is Literacy Important?

- To engage with the written word in everyday life
- Think of how often you use your own reading skills in everyday life
- The same goes for writing
- Literacy plays a vital role in transforming students into socially engaged citizens
Ways to Support Literacy Development

• Encourage reading

• Discuss texts together

• Use games and activities that support literacy development

• Make use of the library

• Coaches, teachers, local community members write or do a brief video about their favorite or most memorable book

• from their youth.
PARP- Pick A Reading Partner

PARP Goals

Instill a curiosity and love for reading
Ignite an enjoyment of reading
Increase reading opportunities for children
Expand children’s knowledge of books and why they are important
Expand knowledge of literature/genre types
PARP Mission Statement

“To provide PTA units, libraries, communities and other parent groups with a clear understanding of the PARP Program, including literacy resources, so that all children will have the tools to develop a life-long love of reading and learning.”
Complete and Submit a NYS PTA PARP Award Application

- Available on the NYS PTA web site in October
- Submit award application to Region Director by May 15
- Region winner announced by June 1
- NYS PTA winner announced by June 15

One state winner shall receive a plaque and a check for $250 to use for purchase of materials for the unit. Each region winner will receive a check for $100.
Engaging Families

- Host a “meet and greet”
- Identify bilingual members of the community
- Create a welcoming, inclusive community space
- Create a family directory
- Promote families’ understanding of different cultures and
- Encourage families to set up mutual support
- Match families with similar interests, goals, or challenges
- Provide opportunities for them to have ongoing connections
- Host events that bring families together
Local Library/ Local Businesses

Create a display around the theme
Have a day when the children’s librarian/staff dress as characters
Children are encouraged to get their library card and also get a ticket to show they visited
Host a Comic-Con
Engage middle school and high school students
Partner with the school and local library
Invite local authors and artists
Art hung in stores
People are encouraged into local businesses
Awards and Recognitions
What is Recognition?

• Acknowledging efforts of volunteers
• Can be simple to formal
• Shows Appreciation
WHY SHOULD YOU PRESENT AWARDS TO YOUR MEMBERS?

• An awards ceremony makes people feel that their work is valued.
• Recognition motivates people
• An awards ceremony or activity is a chance for celebration and reflection.

TYPES OF AWARDS:
- Pins
- Certificates
- Plaques
- Customized Gifts
Ways to Acknowledge Your Members!

- Student Awards
- Teacher Awards
- Advocacy Awards
- Leadership Awards
- Service Awards
NYS PTA SERVICE AWARDS AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND

ADVOCATE IN ACTION (Certificate for nominal fee)

COMMUNITY SERVICE (Plaque/$75.00)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER (Pin & Certificate/$55)

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (Must receive HLM, Pin & Certificate/$75)

GOLDEN OAK (Personally Engraved Plaque/$150)

DIAMOND AWARD (Personally Engraved Tabletop Glass Sculpture/$250)
STUDENT AWARDS

JENKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR EDUCATION

• Assists outstanding students with funding for preparation for the teaching profession.
• A $3,000 scholarship distributed over 4 years.
• For HS seniors who are pursuing a teaching career and plan to attend a SUNY college, or a two-year community college followed by transfer to a SUNY college.
• Deadline - applications must be submitted online or postmarked by December 15th to NYS PTA Office.
YOUTH HUMANITARIAN AWARD IN MEMORY OF STANLEY MARCUS

- For a junior or senior who best exemplifies the humanitarian principles of Stanley Marcus, who is remembered for his humanitarian work and dedication to youth through zealous volunteer community service.
- An engraved plaque and an award of $250.00 is awarded to the State Winner. Each region winner receives an engraved plaque.
- Deadline January 31.
SUSANNE SMOLLER COMMITMENT TO ADVOCACY YOUTH AWARD

This award will be given to one high school senior to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education or training and to continue their active engagement in advocacy in the areas of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community, mental health, social justice or substance use. The award recipient will receive a $500 award, plus an invitation to attend the NYS PTA Legislative Summit & Lobby Day, with costs covered for themselves and one parent/guardian. Deadline November 15.
TEACHER AWARDS

TEACHER FELLOWSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN MEMORY OF RICHARD GAZZOLA

Award encourages excellent teachers to stay in the classroom by providing an opportunity to improve teaching skills, update professional knowledge and expand professional perspectives. This $3,000 fellowship is awarded to a full-time teacher with a master’s degree who has completed at least one year of teaching in a New York State public school. Deadline June 15.

INNOVATIVE TEACHER GRANT

Grants are awarded to projects that aim to introduce something new or provide enhancements to a current program. Applicants must be a PK-12 classroom teacher or special area teacher in a NYS public school or BOCES. Each NYS PTA/PTSA/SEPTA (in good standing) may submit 2 applications. Funds can be used for things such as: enrichment of curriculum, experiential or hands-on learning, or innovative programs which will directly or indirectly benefit students. Deadline February 15.
LEADERSHIP AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek
This award recognizes an outstanding leader in a PTA unit who inspires others to volunteer and assume leadership positions. Applications must be submitted and postmarked to your Region Director by June 15th. Each region may then submit one nominee to the state level for judging. The state winner is honored at the NYS PTA Convention and receives an engraved mantle clock.

Family Engagement Award in Honor of Jami-Beth Knapp
Award honors an individual or group of individuals that continue the work and dedication of Jami-Beth Knapp in family engagement. Recipients receive an engraved clock and an invitation with a guest to the NYS PTA Banquet held Saturday night at the NYS PTA Annual Convention. The deadline to apply is May 15.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award

This award is given to a Unit, Council or Region that contributes to diversity and inclusion through exemplary leadership with a commitment to diversity and inclusion through recruitment, training and retention efforts. Examples of efforts include multicultural, gender-diverse and special-needs appropriate programming/events, inclusive outreach activities, and/or other initiatives.

The winners receive a plaque, one voucher towards registration for a NYS PTA event (excluding hotel and meals) to be used within 12 months (value up to $150 each) and recognition at NYS PTA Convention or Summer Leadership Conference. Deadline March 15.
Where Do I Find Available Awards?

- National PTA Website
- NYS PTA Website
- Region Boards
- Local Councils
- Units
Questions?