



September 22, 2011

PTA County Presidents, Region Directors, County Reflections Chairs, Local Reflections Chairs,

I hope all of you have had a chance to read the Reflections packet put out by National PTA for the 2011-2012 Reflections Program, "Diversity Means...". If you are a returning Reflections chair, or have worked on Reflections in the past, I know you have noticed that National PTA instituted many changes for this year's program – mostly in regards to how the pieces are submitted.

To clarify a little – the new formatting rules and naming rules **MUST BE** used for the pieces that are sent from the state to National for judging. Because we realize that not all students have access to computers, or vast computer knowledge, NJPTA Reflections has decided that, for this program year, we **ARE NOT REQUIRING** the items to be submitted in electronic form. That means that students can continue to submit them as they have in the past – hard copies of literature, printed out copies of photographs, paper copies of entry forms, consent forms and artists statements.

We are however, asking you to **ENCOURAGE** the students to include electronic versions of the items, if possible. We ask this because we realize that many of the students will already have their literature items, or artist statement, or digital photograph on an electronic media, and if this is the case, it would be very easy for them to simply save the items to a disc and include it with their entry. Please be assured that, whether an electronic version is included or not, it will not have any effect on the judging aspect of the items. The reason we are asking for this to be included, if possible, is because, if an item wins at the state level, it must be sent to National PTA in electronic form. If an electronic copy is not included, we at the state PTA Reflections level must convert all the entries and forms to an electronic format. So it would just save a little work if they were included, if possible.

The changes that NJPTA Reflections **ARE REQUIRING** are that all film and dance entries **MUST BE SAVED** as a .flv file and all music entries must be saved as mp3 files. Students **MUST** title their work, and consent forms **MUST** be used, if required. If you need any forms, or information from the Chairs' guide – most information can be found on the National PTA website at www.ptareflections.org or at the NJPTA website www.njpta.org.

For local chairs, the local participation form is now done by computer. The form can be accessed from the National website. It needs to be saved on a DVD and forwarded on to your county. You must also email a copy of the form to me, and email a copy to National PTA at Reflections@pta.org.

So in short, participants are still required to follow the rules set forth by National PTA, but NJPTA is not requiring them to adhere to the new labeling requirements and requirement to submit everything electronically, for this program year, but encouraging them to do so.

I hope this information helps you as you start to implement your program for this year. If you have any questions, please contact me at 609-588-9749, or at mccptapres@aol.com. Thank you.

Laurie Palmer

NJPTA Reflections chair