

All Overall Award of Excellence entries have been advanced to National PTA for the final round of judging and results will be available in June. Please help us congratulate the following thirty Texas students for advancing to national-level judging!

Nikemi Aworeni

Primary Literature titled *Hope in the Storm*

Artist Statement: This poem I wrote is about what my family went through in hurricane Harvey. This poem is also about the sadness you can have in a dangerous situation. My family learned that hope is always within reach.

Austin Parkway PTA, Region 4, Fort Bend ISD

Rumaisa Bhatti

Middle School Film Production titled *Success is within Reach*

Artist Statement: My animation film production goes through the life of a kid who isn't on the right path to success but one day he has dream of what would happen if he tried to turn his life around and he becomes successful. When he wakes up he realises that success can be within reach to anybody from all walks of life, and they all capable of doing so as long as they try.

Murphy Middle School PTA, Plano ISD Council of PTAs

Alexia Booher

Primary Dance Choreography titled *I Had a Dream to be a Ballerina*

Artist Statement: A mi me encanta bailarjes mi sueño. Cuando bailo me siento en casa. Trabajando duro te dejajsaber que todo es posible. Yo se que si sigo bailando puedo ser una bailarina. (I love dancing my dream. When I dance I feel at home. Working hard lets you know that everything is possible. I know that if I keep dancing I can be a dancer.)

Eastwood Knolls Elementary PTA, Region 19, Ysletta ISD

Lucas Burton Brasher

Middle School Photography titled *Stars Within Reach*

Artist Statement: Even though our dreams and goals may seem light years away like the stars, they are still within our reach. Achievement is possible when we stand firm and focus on a target like Polaris, the North Star. I captured these star trails from my backyard using a DSLR, tripod, and intervalometer. To simulate a three hour exposure, I took 368 30-second photos in 1 second intervals, stacked the photos in Photoshop lighten mode, & added a picture I took of myself with a remote timer.

Briarhill Middle School PTA, Lewisville ISD Council of PTAs

Perri Call

Primary Photography titled *Within Reach of Life*

Artist Statement: When looking at a mommy's belly its amazing to know that there is a baby Within Reach of its first breath and we can't even see it.

Voss Farms Elementary PTA, New Braunfels ISD Council of PTAs

Grace Cao

Primary Visual Arts titled *Help is Within Reach*

Artist Statement: Hurricane Harvey brought strong winds, rain, and tornadoes. It caused lots of flooding in Houston. Many people lent hands to rescue victims. My picture shows a man rescuing a woman holding her baby from the flood. Behind them are blown trees and the Texas flag. Everybody can help each other!

Commonwealth Elementary PTA, Region 4, Fort Bend ISD

Ashley Cernicky

High School Dance Choreography titled *Pushing Through*

Artist Statement: Within Reach means to me that everything you strive to achieve is possible through hard work and dedication. The lyrics employ a young girl who once felt as though she was defeated but she had the urge to achieve her dreams through the fight inside of her. My emotion in this piece is portraying me as working hard through tough times.

Allen High School PTSA, Allen ISD Council of PTAs

Ellis Chong

High School Visual Arts titled *Found My Paintbrush*

Artist Statement: Art has always been a solution for me to get through challenging times. The Koi fish are mainly known for overcoming adversity. The colors black and white represent overcoming a difficult obstacle. The red and orange is a symbol of love, power and bravery. The yellow indicates good fortune and wealth. The shoe is me and the water acts like a barrier or impediment. The Koi fish carries the paint brush and tube towards me to remind me that I will always have art to get me through hardships.

Allen High School PTSA (Lowery Freshman Center), Allen ISD Council of PTAs

Riley Franklin

Special Artist Photography titled *Being Still*

Artist Statement: Everyone is always rushing me. My mom tells me to hurry up in the mornings so I don't miss my bus. My teachers tell me to hurry and finish my assignments. I race between classes so I'm not tardy, rush to eat lunch and rush to catch the bus after school. When I put on my ballet shoes, everything changes. Ballet class is the only time I can just relax and be still. Standing at the barre, I don't have to rush. Peace is within reach when I block out the world and focus on what I love.

Kingwood Middle School PTA, Humble Council of PTAs

Alyssa Garcia

High School Music Composition titled *Climbing*

Artist Statement: Sometimes it feels easy to go into the world and begin attaining goals. Sometimes, it's hard to get out of bed, let alone your room. This is the feeling that I hope "Climbing" can capture. Achievements aren't usually out of reach, it's just that far too often we allow ourselves to believe they are.

W. B. Ray High School PTA, Corpus Christi ISD Council of PTAs

Olivia R.B. Herring

Special Artist Film Production titled *"Within Reach" a short film*

Artist Statement: What is "Within Reach Watch LPS Teacher Explain to LPS students how to Achieve their Goals. It's Within Reach!

Castle Hills Elementary PTA, North East ISD Council PTAs

Shriya Iyer

Intermediate Film Production titled *Power of Education*

Artist Statement: This film is about my personal journey volunteering at a remote school in Karnataka, India. The children's condition was bleak - the world literally was beyond their reach. But the education they were receiving was the game-changer in their life. Education can change everything in a child's life. It can put dreams and a bright future within reach.

Beverly Elementary PTA, Plano ISD Council of PTAs

Mazie Johnson

Middle School Literature titled *Impossible*

Artist Statement: My poem, "Impossible", relates to the theme, "Within Reach", because the girl in the poem believes that nothing she wants is within her reach. She doesn't believe that a better friends, family, grades, or even a better future is possible for her. She is stuck in this mindset that a life full of love is impossible for her - that is, until she picks up a book. Throughout the poem, you can see her develop a growing understanding that she is the only one that can determine what path her life follows. She realizes that everything that she ever wanted was all within reach.

J.W. Williams Middle School PTA, Rockwall ISD Council of PTAs

Jocelyn Kim

Middle School Visual Arts titled *Pathways*

Artist Statement: No matter who you are, or where you come from, or which path you choose to pursue, your goals are within reach, just perservere and believe.

Sloan Creek Intermediate PTA, Lovejoy Council of PTAs

Nikolus "Indy" Linnenkugel

Primary Film Production titled *BUZZ Off Hunger*

Artist Statement: I think honeybees are really cool, so I spent two months learning more about them. I think that honeybees could help end world hunger if we can make better decisions and teach other people about them. I wanted my video to teach people about honeybees and show them what the world looks like through a bee's eyes. Thank you. - Indy

Oak Ridge Elementary PTA, Frenship ISD Council of PTA's

Joshua Martin

Intermediate Dance Choreography titled *Breakin' to the Top*

Artist Statement: My breakdance choreography relates to the theme "Within Reach", by showing that anything is possible through passion, hard work and dedication. I decided to use the song, "Go" by The Chemical Brothers feat. Q-Tip, since it also represents the theme of never giving up. I filmed my routine at the Graffiti Wall because it's an inspiring place where artists are free to create whatever they want and it also makes me feel like anything is possible with the whole city behind you.

Mills Elementary PTA, Austin Council of PTAs

Laura Miley

High School Literature titled *The Berlin Wall*

Artist Statement: My work relates to theme because the speaker is mourning the consequences of having her husband be literally on the other side of a wall - just within reach.

Byron Nelson High School PTSA, Northwest ISD Council of PTAs

Kara Elizabeth Moy

Middle School Dance Choreography titled *Reach for Redemption*

Artist Statement: If you get knocked down, redemption is always within reach. You need only look inside yourself to find your strength.

Murchison Middle School PTA, Austin Council of PTAs

Juliet Ornes

Primary Music Composition titled *Thanksgiving*

Artist Statement: Thanksgiving is a time to gather around your family & friends. Love & friendship are within reach at thanksgiving.

Garden Ridge Elementary PTA, Comal County Council of PTAs

Ishika Pande

Special Artist Dance Choreography titled *You Can Do It*

Artist Statement: I love dance but I always feels scared to stage and people & feels that I wanted to get that trophy one day. Will I be able to do it? I showed this in my dance It is dance competition & I won trophy. It was within reach to me.

Parkside Elementary PTA, Leander ISD Council of PTAs

Shivani Sarangam

Intermediate Visual Arts titled *Reaching for My Sparkling Dreams*

Artist Statement: The girl is reaching for the fireflies that symbolize each of her wishes & dreams. Just like how she can catch a firefly, she believes she can reach her dreams & make her wishes come true. I am amazed at how bright & pretty fireflies are. I was inspired because when I was playing outside with my cousins & we saw fireflies & we had a contest on who could catch more fireflies.

McCoy Elementary PTA, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Council PTAs

Dylan James Shaw

Special Artist Music Composition titled *Uncle Boogie*

Artist Statement: My song reaches from the top of the piano to the bottom with my sweeps. They are called glissonandos. So now I will reach for my dream.

Heritage Elementary PTA, Lewisville ISD Council of PTAs

Peyton Smith

High School Photography titled *Unity*

Artist Statement: This photo was taken in a humble orphanage in the city of Accra, Ghana. The purpose of the black and white is to place an emphasis on the diversity of the photos. While taking this photograph I met the most genuinely happy people, and all of us became immediately connected, unified, and friends despite race. This is how I chose to display the unity we all found in the unexpected orphanage. It is a powerful feeling to be that unified in a goal for happiness. Ending racism is definitely within reach, and has power to unify society and promote happiness.

Byron Nelson High School PTSA, Northwest ISD Council of PTAs

Pranay Srivastava

High School Film Production titled *The Habit*

Artist Statement: My piece follows the life of a procrastinating teenager who takes an initiative to complete his work on time one day. This film attempts to display the idea that, if one is willing to put in hard work towards their goals, anything can be within reach of them; this is expressed via a simple and relatable narrative which displays the thoughts that most teenagers have when attempting to achieve their goals.

Allen High School PTSA, Allen ISD Council of PTAs

Matthew Michael Thompson

Special Artist Visual Arts titled *Wild Flower Happy*

Artist Statement: "The moon was a happy surprise. The flowers and the building are within reach." (Matthew choose/typed the words: moon, happy, surprise, flowers & building. His concept/understanding of "Within reach" is the literal sense - like almost there or almost get to.)

Bowie High School PTSA, Austin Council of PTAs

Micah Williams

Special Artist Literature titled *The Light That is Still Shining*

Artist Statement: Even if it seems like there is no color in the world, Hope is still within reach. We Must use our creativity and work together as a community.

Walsh Middle School PTA, Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs

Brady Wolston

Intermediate Photography titled *Being Happy with Yourself is Within Reach*

Artist Statement: One night when I was sitting at the kitchen table I looked up and saw this frog climbing on our glass door. I thought it was cool, so I got the camera. After looking through the photos I took, I liked this one because the frog appears to be looking at itself and smiling. It reminds me how I need to find happiness within myself. In a world where people can be rude and put others down, we need to stop and reflect on the beauty within us. Being happy with yourself is within reach.

Sunnyvale Elementary PTA, Region 10, Sunnyvale ISD

Alexander Yiannos

Middle School Music Composition titled *The Journey Within*

Artist Statement: Throughout life you will go on many journeys. The start of a journey, like the first part of my song, is serious and determined. However, not all journeys are easy. There will be challenges and obstacles along the way. The middle section of my song shows this drama & uncertainty. The third part of my song evokes happiness and triumph. Because if you don't give up, you can overcome challenges, and you will see that the end of the journey is always within reach.

Lopez Middle School PTA, North East ISD Council PTAs

Latham Young

Intermediate Literature titled *Change*

Artist Statement: "When I was in 3rd grade, there was a boy who bullied me. He called me names, he pushed me when teachers weren't looking, and he tried to get me in trouble. I was not the only one he bullied. The boy hurt a lot of kids. What happened to me inspired my Reflections literature entry. I want the bully to know, it is within his reach to change. I hope my poem helps him and other bullies to be nice, have fun, and make friends." Latham Young, 9 years old

Lone Star Statewide PTA, Region 13, Homeschooled

Latham Young

Intermediate Music Composition titled *Change*

Artist Statement: "When I was in 3rd grade, there was a boy who bullied me. He called me names, he pushed me when teachers weren't looking, and he tried to get me in trouble. I was not the only one he bullied. The boy hurt a lot of kids. What happened to me inspired my Reflections music entry. I want the bully to know, it is within his reach to change. I hope my rap helps him and other bullies to be nice, have fun, and make friends." Latham Young, 9 years old

Lone Star Statewide PTA, Region 13, Homeschooled



2017 - 2018 Texas PTA Reflections Results
Full list of students advancing to national-level judging, alphabetical by last name.

Student First Name	Student Last Name	Grade Division	Arts Category	Title of Work (Required)	Student's School Name (Local PTA)	Council PTA Name
Nikemi	Aworeni	Primary	Literature	Hope in the Storm	Austin Parkway PTA	Region 4, Fort Bend ISD
Rumaisa	Bhatti	Middle School	Film Production	Success is within Reach	Murphy Middle School	Plano ISD Council of PTAs
Alexia	Booher	Primary	Dance Choreography	I Had a Dream to be a Ballerina	Eastwood Knolls Elementary PTA	Region 19, Ysletta ISD
Lucas Burton	Brasher	Middle School	Photography	Stars Within Reach	Briarhill Middle School PTA	Lewisville ISD Council of PTAs
Perri	Call	Primary	Photography	Within Reach of Life	Voss Farms Elementary	New Braunfels ISD Council of PTAs
Grace	Cao	Primary	Visual Arts	Help is Within Reach	Commonwealth Elementary PTA	Region 4
Ashley	Cernicky	High School	Dance Choreography	Pushing Through	Allen High School PTSA	Allen ISD Council of PTAs
Ellis	Chong	High School	Visual Arts	Found My Paintbrush	Allen High School PTSA (Lowery Freshman Center)	Allen ISD Council of PTAs
Riley	Franklin	Special Artist	Photography	Being Still	Kingwood Middle School	Humble Council of PTAs
Alyssa	Garcia	High School	Music Composition	Climbing	W. B. Ray High School	Corpus Christi ISD Council of PTAs
Olivia R.B.	Herring	Special Artist	Film Production	"Within Reach" a short film	Castle Hills Elementary	North East ISD Council PTAs
Shriya	Iyer	Intermediate	Film Production	Power of Education	Beverly Elementary School	Plano ISD Council of PTAs
Mazie	Johnson	Middle School	Literature	Impossible	J.W. Williams Middle School	Rockwall Council of PTAs
Jocelyn	Kim	Middle School	Visual Arts	Pathways	Sloan Creek Intermediate School	Lovejoy Council PTA
Nikolus "Indy"	Linnenkugel	Primary	Film Production	BUZZ Off Hunger	Oak Ridge Elementary	Frenship ISD Council of PTA's
Joshua	Martin	Intermediate	Dance Choreography	Breakin' to the Top	Mills Elementary School	Austin Council PTA
Laura	Miley	High School	Literature	The Berlin Wall	Byron Nelson High School PTSA	Northwest ISD Council of PTAs
Kara Elizabeth	Moy	Middle School	Dance Choreography	Reach for Redemption	Murchison Middle School	Austin Council PTA
Juliet	Ornes	Primary	Music Composition	Thanksgiving	Garden Ridge Elementary School	Comal County Council of PTAs
Ishika	Pande	Special Artist	Dance Choreography	You Can Do It	Parkside Elementary	Leander ISD Council of PTAs



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Shivani	Sarangam	Intermediate	Visual Arts	Reaching for My Sparkling Dreams	McCoy Elementary PTA	Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Council PTA
Dylan James	Shaw	Special Artist	Music Composition	Uncle Boogie	Heritage Elementary PTA	Lewisville ISD Council of PTAs
Peyton	Smith	High School	Photography	Unity	Byron Nelson High School PTSA	Northwest ISD Council of PTAs
Pranay	Srivastava	High School	Film Production	The Habit	Allen High School PTSA	Allen ISD Council of PTAs
Matthew Michael	Thompson	Special Artist	Visual Arts	Wild Flower Happy	Bowie High School	Austin Council PTA
Micah	Williams	Special Artist	Literature	The Light That is Still Shining	Walsh Middle School	Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs
Brady	Wolston	Intermediate	Photography	Being Happy with Yourself is Within Reach	Sunnyvale Elementary School PTA	Region 10
Alexander	Yiannos	Middle School	Music Composition	The Journey Within	Lopez Middle School	North East ISD Council PTAs
Latham	Young	Intermediate	Literature	Change	Lone Star Statewide PTA	Region 13
Latham	Young	Intermediate	Music Composition	Change	Lone Star Statewide PTA	Region 13