

The Issaquah PTSA Council Reflections team is committed to supporting all student artists. We acknowledge that this year's theme may be triggering for many students.

We have furthered the concerns of the students to State level leaders of PTSA.

To that end, we would like to suggest ways to make the Reflections program inclusive to all artists:

- We encourage student artists to think of the theme as "I am valuable because" or "I am strong because".
- We encourage artists to make art in direct response to the theme. An interpretation that protests the theme, is still an interpretation of that theme.
- Art is a powerful way to make a statement. Artists reflect the world and have the power to change hearts and minds.

As District chairs, we do not have the power to rewrite the theme. Choosing to run our own contest is also not an option, as we are required to provide a Reflections Program as part of our affiliation with the National PTSA. We also want all of our artists to have the opportunity to be considered for recognition at the state and national level.

We appreciate our students coming to us in good faith and with a clear, reasoned, bridge-building approach to this issue.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Allen-Bentsen  
Heather Bratton  
Leah Gibson