



Student Art Contest in Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of NC Charter Schools

As part of our celebration of the 25th anniversary of public charter schools in North Carolina, the NC Association for Public Charter Schools is hosting a student art contest. The contest is open to K-12 students from NC public charter schools. Winning entries will be displayed at the NC Department of Public Instruction (sculpture will be displayed by photo).

Theme: Students are encouraged to use critical thinking skills in their works of art to address the prompt **“What My Charter School Means to Me.”** In addition, each student’s work must somehow incorporate a creative acknowledgement of the **25th anniversary** of NC public charter schools.

Process: From chalk, pencil, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, to papier mache and cut-outs, students’ use of media is unlimited, but the size should be between 6x6 and 18x24. Students may even choose to create a sculpture*. Each school is welcomed to make one submission per grade band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12). No group art projects will be eligible. Schools will submit a photograph of their entry(ies) for judging. Entries are due by May 1, 2021. More details to come.

Prizes: Each student winner will receive a \$25 gift card, and each winning school will receive a \$250 donation to the school’s art program.

Judging: Entries will be judged by committee based on the following:

- Does the artist address the contest’s theme clearly?
- Is the theme presented in an original, unique way?
- Does the piece incorporate the 25th anniversary of NC’s charter schools?
- Does the piece express creativity and individuality? Does it stand out as distinctive?

To get us the best quality photos of your students' artwork follow these guidelines:

- Upload to cloud storage (Google Drive, OneDrive or Dropbox) and share instead of attaching to an email. When you send a photo via email, they get compressed to save space, and we want to see that big, beautiful artwork!
- If you use your phone to photograph artwork, whatever format your phone stores photos in is fine. However, If you want to touch up or edit the photos using a 3rd party app or software before sharing, use .png or .jpg as high quality as available.

Tips for Photographing Artwork (for you or share with your parents):

- You don't need to use a scanner or special camera--any current smartphone will do a great job of photographing artwork.
- The most important factor is LIGHT. If you can use natural light from a window that's great. Diffuse light doesn't cast a shadow on the artwork you are trying to photograph.
- Place the artwork flat on a plain surface.
- Photograph the artwork from above, trying to hold the camera parallel to the table.
- For smartphone users: Make sure you tap on the subject (the piece of art) to tell your phone where to focus. Otherwise, you might end up with a blurry photo, even if it looks fine on the screen!
- Use an app like [Google Photoscan](#) to make this even easier!

*If a sculpture is chosen as a winner, the piece will be displayed by photograph at the NC Department of Public Instruction.