TOGETHER
WE'RE BETTER

Elementary & Middle School Artwork Contest

We invite students to participate in the 2026-27 "Together We're Better" (TWB) Artwork Contest! This contest is a critical part of the TWB Inclusive Education Campaign, promoting equity, inclusion, and belonging!

ARTWORK THEMES

- The National Inclusive Schools Theme this year is "**Together We Learn.**"
- We are better together.
- Respect and care for others; support student's diverse needs, embraces their unique abilities, and fosters a sense of belonging.
- Our different abilities make our school communities stronger.









PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for the top three submissions, as selected by contest judges. Honorees will receive prizes for themselves and their schools! Honorees will be invited to a reception at the House of Delegates in Annapolis in early March 2027!

	Student	School
First:	$75 gift card	$500 award
Second:	$50 gift card	$200 award
Third:	$25 gift card	$100 award

Submissions Are Due by January 26, 2027 | Contest Rules Are In the Submission Form Below!

The Arc Maryland

Maryland Department of Disabilities

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Maryland State Department of Education

ThiThis project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $1,254,032. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Elementary & Middle School Artwork Contest Submission Form

Contest Deadline: January 26, 2027

Submission Title: _____

Name of Student Artist: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Email: _____

Was the student instructed to participate in the artwork contest by their teacher? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Teacher Name: _____ Email: _____

Principal Name: _____ Email: _____

List activities (if any) conducted to increase inclusion of students of all abilities:

_____

By signing this form, the parent/teacher gives The Arc Maryland permission to use this information and artwork submission at their discretion to publicize & promote the "Together We're Better" Inclusive Education Awareness Campaign and Artwork Contest and other mission-related initiatives.

Rights to Original Artwork: In submitting their original artwork to The Arc Maryland as part of this contest, the submitting student/artist is relinquishing ownership of their artwork to The Arc Maryland. By relinquishing ownership, the student/artist is granting The Arc Maryland permission to use said artwork to promote The Arc Maryland's mission, vision, programs, services, and for any other reason The Arc Maryland deems appropriate through any and all media outlets in perpetuity. The student is welcome and encouraged to utilize their original artwork in art shows, portfolios, etc.

Signature of Parent/Guardian or Teacher: _____

Rules:

- Submission should be done by one student.
- Submissions can be created on a physical or digital canvas.
- Any medium of art is welcome, including drawings, paintings, collages, sculptures, etc.
- Participants must be elementary/middle school students in a Maryland school or Maryland home-school.
- A copy of this entry form must be filled out and submitted with the artwork.
- Digital submissions should include either a scan of the artwork (preferred) OR a high quality photo of the artwork.

Judging Criteria:

- Follows this year's National theme - "Together We Learn."
- Creativity and Originality.
- Use of Materials / Supplies.

Questions?

- Contact Sharon Dols at SDols@TheArcMD.org

A signed copy of this document (completed digitally or physically) must be sent alongside the artwork submission to The Arc Maryland via email at SDols@TheArcMD.org or mailed directly to The Arc Maryland at 8601 Robert Fulton Dr, Ste 140, Columbia, MD 21046.

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