

Montgomery County Public Schools

United We Learn: All Means All

Important Dates to Remember

Contest opens: January 29, 2018
Submissions are due: March 16, 2018
Winners announced: April 12, 2018

Contest Rules and Regulations

Purpose

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) celebrates its diversity while being committed to ensuring that every student has access to the opportunities and resources needed to be successful in their futures. Superintendent of Schools Jack Smith has stated that “we will celebrate diversity and a commitment to equity making sure that **All Means All** when it comes to equity and excellence in learning, progress, achievement and opportunity.”

Montgomery County Public Schools is launching the second year of its student contest, **United We Learn**. Through visual art and creative writing, this year’s contest, **United We Learn: All Means All**, challenges students to think critically about what equity means and how attitudes, traditions, systemic practices and/or legal matters impede or support the concept that “All Means All.” This contest is directly aligned with the district’s core values of Learning, Respect, Relationships, Equity and Excellence.

Participation

Eligibility of participants

All participants must be students currently enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Eligibility of Entries

- Items for submission must be completed by a group of two to eight students.
- The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2018. Writing submissions must be received through the online portal. Visual Art may be submitted to the main office of the students’ school or directly to the Public Information and Web Services office, 850 Hungerford Dr., Room 137, Rockville, MD 20850.
- The work must follow the MCPS guidelines regarding appropriateness of language and subject matter found in *2017–2018 A Student’s Guide to Rights and Responsibilities in Montgomery County Public Schools*.

LINK TO:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/students/rights/2017_StudentRightsAndResponsibilities_Web.pdf

- Submission may not include terms or images that could be described as offensive, harassing, or targeting of any specific group.
- Submissions may not include the use of ANY copyrighted materials unless express written permission has been provided by the copyright holder. Submissions received without written permission will be disregarded.
- Entries will be prescreened as they are received. Finalists and winners will be chosen by the full Submission Review Committee.
- The Submission Review Committee retains the right to refuse to critique any entry not complying with the contest rules.

Grade Level Groups

- Entries will be accepted in these grade level groups: Elementary, Middle and High.
- If students from more than one grade level are working together, entries must be submitted in the grade level of the oldest member of the group.

Categories

The following are the categories for submission:

❖ Written

- Can be no more than 1,000 words.
- Written entries **must** be submitted online via the [contest submission form](https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/united-we-learn-all-means-all/).
<https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/united-we-learn-all-means-all/>
Entries without a submission form will be disregarded.
- Each written submission file must have the same title as the project title provided with the submission form.
- Each written submission must include on the document each student's/students' name(s), grade(s) and school(s).
- Examples:
 - Essay
 - Poem
 - Song Lyrics

❖ Visual Art

- Submissions cannot be larger than 22" by 28".
- Students will create original two-dimensional artwork.
- Students will act ethically, without plagiarizing, when using existing imagery to research and/or create original art.
- Students will cite original sources and demonstrate the appropriate use of copyrighted and public domain imagery.
- Students will make substantial transformations beyond simple duplication to source imagery and ideas. This transformation must surpass copying the image in another medium. The resulting artwork must alter the formal qualities of design, express a new idea, and/or alter the meaning of the source.
- Visual Art may be submitted to the main office of the students' school or directly to the MCPS Public Information Office, 850 Hungerford Dr., Room 137, Rockville, MD 20850.

- Each submission must be clearly marked with each participant's name(s), grade(s) and school(s). In addition, a [Contest Submission Form](https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/united-we-learn-all-means-all/) must be securely attached to the entry. <https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/united-we-learn-all-means-all/>
Entries without a submission form will be disregarded.
- Examples:
 - Painting
 - Drawing
 - Graphic Design Poster
 - Photography

**All submissions become the property of Montgomery County Public Schools.
Submissions will not be returned to the schools or participants.
Students or teachers may take a digital image of the artwork before submitting.**

Submitting Work

- Each project must be labeled with each participating student's name, grade level and school. Each project must also be accompanied by a completed [Contest Submission Form](#).
Entries without one will be disregarded.
- Students must select a category for each entry using the specific categories outlined in the competition guidelines.
- As stated above, written entries **must** be submitted online via the online [submission form](#).
- Visual art entries **must** be submitted in one of two ways: by dropping them off in your school office, or by dropping them off at the Public Information and Web Services office, 850 Hungerford Dr., Room 137, Rockville, MD 20850. Each submission must be clearly marked with each participant's name(s), grade(s) and school(s). A [Contest Submission Form](#) must be securely attached to the entry.

Judging

- ❖ The Submission Review Committee will judge entries in all categories.
- ❖ The Submission Review Committee will be made up of MCPS staff members and representatives from MCPS partners.
- ❖ Submissions will be judged based on:
 - Creativity and Craftsmanship
 - The entry is an original work and any sources are cited.
 - The entry addresses the topic in a captivating and engaging manner.
 - The chosen medium is effective at communicating the author's point or perspective.
 - Relevance and Impact
 - The entry clearly addresses the theme "United We Learn"
 - The entry is thought-provoking and convincing.
 - The creator demonstrates an understanding and appreciation of diversity.
 - Collaboration
 - Entry follows established Rules and Guidelines.
 - The entry is free of errors or omissions.
 - The entry was created collaboratively in groups of two to eight students.
- ❖ The highest scoring entry in each level will receive a first place award. Second and third place awards will also be given.

- ❖ Winners will be announced on Thursday, April 12, 2018
 - Winners will be posted on the MCPS website after the announcement. First place winners will be invited to attend and will be recognized at the Champions for Children event on April 18, 2018.
 - Non-winning entries will not be individually notified of the results. Participants for all winning entries will receive a certificate of appreciation for their participation.