

Thank a Teacher Art Contest Entry Guide

About the Contest

The Thank a Teacher Art Contest is the yearly kick-off to the statewide Thank a Teacher campaign sponsored by the Virginia Lottery, and in partnership with The Supply Room. Since the contest launched in 2018, we have received nearly 11,000 entries from student artists across the Commonwealth. Each year, three winners received a cash prize, money for their school's art department, and each of their designs was featured on thank-you notes distributed by students, parents and the general public during National Teacher Appreciation Week. We're excited to continue to see students' creativity soar this year!

Eligibility

- Artwork must be completed by an elementary, middle or high school student enrolled in one of Virginia's public schools.
- Artist and guardian must be willing to have the artwork featured in print, and potentially by local or statewide news media.

Design and Selection Criteria

- Design size: 8.5x11 in. paper or digital.
- Acceptable: Drawing and painting mediums, using materials such as colored pencils, crayons, ink, pencil, oil pastel, water color and paint. Graphic design and construction paper artwork will be accepted as well.
- Not acceptable: Sculpture, 3-D models, cut and pasted artwork, recreations of existing artwork, folded artwork, plagiarized or trademarked images, or logos and TIF files.
- Selection criteria includes the following: originality, artistic spirit and overall impression/impact.

Submission Guidelines

- There is no limit to the number of entries each student may submit.
- Complete online submission form at www.thankateacherva.com.
- Photo/image attachment tips:
 - Scan or take a photo of the design using the high-resolution (HDR) setting of a smart phone or camera. Position the camera horizontally, so that it is the same direction as the artwork.
 - Ensure there is adequate lighting.
 - Upload photo/image of the design (large file size or actual size).
- Attachment file type requirements: JPEG, PDF or PNG
- MUST keep the original artwork.

Prize Structure

- School prize
 - Each public school (one elementary school, one middle school and one high school) where the contest winners are enrolled will receive \$2,000 for their art department (Ex: This could be spent on any related supplies for the arts including traditional art, photography, pottery, 3-D design, etc.).
- Student prize

- Each student/winner will receive a monetary prize of \$200 in the form of a Visa® gift card from the Virginia Lottery to use for art supplies.
 - Note: Prize money will only be awarded to the winning students with permission from a parent or guardian.
- In addition to the student and school prizes outlined above, all prizes will also include:
 - Each winning design featured on thousands of virtual thank-you notes, distributed across the Commonwealth during the 2025 Thank a Teacher campaign (April-May).
 - Involvement in “winner reveal” news conference in 2025.

Contest Timeline

- Online submission period: October 15, 2024 – February 3, 2025
- Judging period: February 2025
- Winner announcements: March 2025

Sample Online Submission Form

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK: FEBRUARY 3, 2025.

Student's First Name	Student's Last Name	Student's Grade Level
Please enter your first name	Please enter your last name	Please select your grade
Student's Public School	Student's School District	Student's School Phone Number
Please enter your school	Please enter your school district	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Guardian's First Name	Guardian's Last Name	Guardian's Phone Number
Please enter guardian's first name	Please guardian's last name	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Guardian's Email Address	Confirm Guardian's Email Address	How did you hear about this art contest
Please enter your email address	Please Re-type your email address	Please select one

I confirm that the submitter is a student at the school entered and has a guardian or a teacher's permission to participate.

UPLOAD YOUR 8.5" X 11" ARTWORK
(JPEG, PNG, TIFF or PDF format)

Contact Us

If you are having trouble submitting or have questions regarding your entry, please contact Jacqueline Severance at JSeverance@valottery.com or 804-692-7418.