2026 Photography Submission Rules:

Photography Entries:

The entry divisions for photography are as follows:
1) **Elementary Art** - Grades 4-5
2) **Middle School Art** - Grades 6-8
3) **Senior High Art** - Grades 9-12

General Rules covering Photography:

1) **The art must be original to the student.** Do not copy someone else's work or photograph another photograph. If the judges recognize a photo as too closely imitating another person's photo, it will be up to the judge's discretion whether the imitation is too close for entry. **An artist statement must be signed** along with the entry, stating, among other things, that the artwork is original to the student.

2) **All entrants must sign an entry form.** This form, as well as **an artist statement form** will be available before the competition.

3) **The photograph(s) must have been taken less than 12 months prior to entry**.

4) **Students may enter up to three (3) photographs each.**

5) **No art may be entered that was done under direct supervision of a teacher or parent**. The student may use help such as reference books and so on, but is not allowed to request direct suggestions from others in how to change their art for improvement for the sake of this competition. The student needs to rely on what they have learned to put forth their best effort for the competition.

6) **Different from the traditional art categories, photos must *not* be framed. Photos must be mounted on an 11x14 board** (poster/foam/mounting board – different varieties are fine, but must be stiff and easily handled), either black or white, using a photo-safe spray adhesive. You may choose between black and white, depending on what you feel sets off your photo more attractively.

7) **The photo must be a minimum of 8x10 and a maximum of 11x14 in size;** however, any size or size ratio between the two extremes (ratios can be 4:6, 3:4, square, 16:9, etc.) is allowed. An 11x14 photograph will be mounted edge to edge, with no mounting board visible.

8) **There is no category for highly edited photographs** such as those using Photoshop to combine two or more photos, put a dog's head in place of a bird's, or things similar to that. We may consider a separate category in the future.

9) **Editing and post-processing** such as color/white balance, sharpening, tone curve adjustments, and so on (such as might be achieved in Lightroom or similar applications) **is permitted.** This includes split-tone processing. The judges reserve the right to decide whether a photograph is modified too heavily.

10) **Filters, such as those common on Instagram, are permissible.** However, please keep them reasonable and tastefully done. Remember that a photograph that will do well in a competition is one that started off as a good photograph (properly exposed, good composition) before a filter was applied. It is usually easy for a judge to discern when a filter is being applied over an otherwise poor photograph.

11) **Please do not enter HDR photographs** (High Dynamic Resolution). Many judges are highly polarized in their opinion of HDR photography such as tends to be quite popular these days. If you use HDR techniques in your photo processing to bring out shadow details, make sure it is tastefully done. This will be up to the discretion of the judges.

12) If a parent or teacher deems the student sufficiently advanced, **students may compete in a level higher than the grade division describes**. However, be aware that this is likely to make the competition for that student significantly more difficult.

13) **Photographs may be abstract or non-abstract**. A photograph is considered abstract if the subject is not readily identifiable and if the subject is primarily colors, patterns, textures, shapes, and so on. If enough of each is entered, we may divide categories into Abstract/Non-Abstract divisions and award accordingly.

14) There is no limit to the number of entries a student may submit in any one category, provided that all the work has been completed within the calendar year of March 2025-March 2026.

Elementary Grades 4-5	Category:
	Color- Landscape
	Color – Portrait
	Color – Macro
	Color – Abstract
	Monochrome – Landscape
	Monochrome – Portrait
	Monochrome – Macro
	Monochrome – Abstract

Middle School Grades 6-8	Category:
	Color- Landscape
	Color – Portrait
	Color – Macro
	Color – Abstract
	Monochrome – Landscape
	Monochrome – Portrait
	Monochrome – Macro
	Monochrome – Abstract

High School Grades 9-12	Category:
	Color- Landscape
	Color – Portrait
	Color – Macro
	Color – Abstract
	Monochrome – Landscape
	Monochrome – Portrait
	Monochrome – Macro
	Monochrome – Abstract