

## PREPARE 2024 Showcase Guidelines

**This year's Conference Theme is: "*Safer Schools Together*"**

**The theme for your Showcase entry is: Safe Spaces**

Calling all artists! Our 2024 Art Showcase this year will focus on 'Safe Spaces.' Capture the essence of security within the school environment through your unique perspective.

From the physical to the emotional, express what makes you feel safe. Showcase the collaborative efforts that contribute to school safety, and let your artwork be a powerful testament to the strength of our educational community.

**What to Do:** Create an 8.5" x 11" **portrait** piece of art that represents **what** or **who** makes a safe space for you in school. Also, give your piece a name and write a brief, 25 words or less, description of your piece to be included with your submission.

All entries must be original pieces of work that do not contain any logos, copyrighted imagery, or information (such as clipart). Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in your entry being disqualified.

Entries **must be the work of the student** submitting the entry. By submitting an entry, you are attesting that the piece submitted is the sole work of the student.

**How Do I Submit My Entry?** Download the form from our website ([bit.ly/SchoolSafetyShowcase](https://bit.ly/SchoolSafetyShowcase)) and complete all of the required information. When you are ready to upload your entry, go to our website and upload the completed entry form along with your submission and name/description of your piece. A Parent/Guardian authorization for submission is required for all entries.

Electronic submissions are encouraged; however, you can also mail your entry to The Maryland Center for School Safety, Attn: Showcase Committee, 7125 Ambassador Road, Suite 130, Windsor Mill, MD 21244. All mailed entries must be received within seven (7) days of the due date to be displayed at the conference and entered into the Showcase. Please plan accordingly.

If providing a picture of your entry, please ensure that it is a high-resolution photograph to capture the essence of your art.

All entries will be displayed at the MCSS Annual School Safety Conference, PREPARE 2024, July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and on the MCSS website following the conference.

**Are there any material requirements?** No, the student artists can create their art pieces from any materials they see fit to express themselves, from popsicle sticks, to macaroni, to oil paint. Digital art is also acceptable. The submitted art piece should be static (paintings (paper and digital), photographs, digital art creations) that have to be manually created and no automated or AI technology usage.

**Is there a size limit for my entry?** Yes, entries should be in portrait and cannot be larger than 8.5" x 11" in size; however, photographs can be 8" x 10" or resized to 8.5" x 11".

**How many entries can I make?** There is a limit of one entry per student. Only the first received entry will be considered if there are multiple entries.

**Who is eligible to enter?** All Maryland students in grades 3 through 12 who attend any Public, Non-Public, Private or HomeSchool. There will be three categories. Elementary School (3rd, 4th and 5th grade), Middle School (6th, 7th and 8th grade) and High School (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade).

**Is anyone excluded from entering?** No, as long as you meet the grade criteria and are a student at a Maryland school in any of the 24 jurisdictions (including Baltimore City), you are eligible to submit an entry.

**What's the Contest Period?** The contest will begin at 12:00 a.m. on March 1, 2024 and end at 11:59 p.m. on June 7, 2024.

**Who will be judging my submission?** The attendees of the Conference will be submitting anonymous votes for each grade group. Attendees are only allowed to vote once for each Showcase grade group.

All MCSS staff members are excluded from voting for any art pieces submitted to the Showcase.

**What criteria will the judging be based upon?**

- Level of creativity.
- How well the theme is represented in the piece submitted.
- Level of skill for your grade group.

**When will I find out if I won?** All votes will be tallied, and the winners will be announced on the last day of the conference and notified by email following the conference.

**How many winners will there be?** There will be three winners in each Showcase grade group– first, second, and third place.

**How will my art be used?** All submissions will be showcased on the MCSS website and may be used in promotional materials and postings by MCSS. If this is the case, the artist will be properly identified with the piece.

### **What are the Prizes?**

- **First Place Winners**
  - Elementary School - Drawing Tablet with Screen and Stylus
  - Middle School - Drawing Tablet with Screen and Stylus
  - High School - Beats Studio Solo Wireless Headset
- **Second Place Winners**
  - Elementary School - 139-Piece Art Painting Set with Easel
  - Middle School - Podcast Production Studio with Microphone
  - High School - Podcast Production Studio with Microphone
- **Third Place Winners**
  - Elementary School - JBL Waterproof Bluetooth Speaker
  - Middle School - 139- Piece Art Painting Set with Easel
  - High School - Vlogging Kit for iPhone

MCSS reserves the right to add or substitute prizes at its discretion.