



Judging

Artwork will be judged on the following parameters:

- Artistic skills
- Creativity and originality
- Contest theme: "Once upon a school day, a fairy tale came to life. What happened next?"
- Unique and novel approach to the artwork
- Technical skill by grade level
- Adherence to the Art Requirements and the Rules

Artwork will be grouped and judged by four Grade Groups:

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

Artwork will be judged using the following process:

- Each submission in each Grade Group will be scored from 1 to 43, 1 being the lowest score. There will be a combined score from five (5) ESS judges. The top four traditional art finalists and the top digital art finalist with the highest score in each Grade Group will move to the next round.
- The top five (5) finalists in each Grade Group will be posted on ESS' social media accounts ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) for judging from the public between January 25, 2027, 12:00 am and January 31, 2027, 8:00 pm Eastern Time.
- A percentage of the total score from the number of likes, comments, and shares from ESS' social media ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)), combined with the highest score from the ESS judges, will determine the winner from each Grade Group.

The winner from each Grade Group will be announced on ESS' social media pages on February 3, 2027. Each winner will receive a \$500 American Express gift card, plus an additional \$500 for their school.

Please read through the contest [Rules](#) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact us at ArtContest@ESS.com.