



High School Art Contest 2026

Friends of the Gaston County Public Library

Prompt: **“Open a Book, Open a World”**

Submission Deadline: **February 28, 2026**

The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library invite high school students across Gaston County to participate in our annual Art Contest! This year's theme, “Open a Book, Open a World,” celebrates the magic of books as portals to new worlds — magical, mysterious, or real. Artists are encouraged to create designs inspired by doors, portals, or gateways from books that transport readers to new adventures and ideas.

Art Guidelines

- Artwork should reflect the theme: “Open a Book, Open a World.”
- Limit artwork to 3–4 colors maximum (for print on merchandise).
- Acceptable formats: digital or hand-drawn artwork (if hand-drawn, please scan or photograph clearly).
- Design should be 8.5" x 11" or larger, suitable for t-shirts and tote bags.
- Please include your name, school, and grade with your submission.

Awards

- Grand Prize: \$100 Visa Gift Card
- Winning Artwork: Will be featured on Friends of the Library merchandise (t-shirts, tote bags, etc.) sold to support library programs.

The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library Board will select the winner. The winning artist will be announced in March 2026.

How to Submit

Email submissions to: gcplfriends@gastonlibrary.org

Subject line: Art Contest Submission – [Your Name]

Attach your artwork (JPEG, PNG, or PDF) and must include a completed Submission & Release Form



Friends of the Gaston County Public Library – 2026 High School Art Contest

Submission & Artwork Release Form

Student Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if under 18): _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Title of Artwork (optional): _____

Artist Statement (optional): Tell us briefly what inspired your design (50 words or less):

Artwork Release Agreement

By signing below, I certify that the artwork I am submitting is my original creation. I grant the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library and the Gaston County Public Library the non-exclusive, perpetual right to reproduce, display, and use my artwork (with credit given) on merchandise, promotional materials, and online platforms to support library fundraising and outreach.

I understand that I will retain the copyright to my artwork, but grant permission for it to be used without further compensation beyond the contest prize.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____ Date: _____

☒ Submission Checklist:

- Artwork file max 3–4 colors (JPEG, PNG, or PDF)
- Completed Submission & Release Form
- Email to: gcplfriends@gastonlibrary.org Subject line: Art Contest Submission – [Your Name] by February 28, 2026 deadline