



Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund Application Information and Guidelines

2026

The purpose of the Michael J. Murphy Scholarship Fund is to provide private instruction in music and music related activities (including but not limited to instrumental, vocal, dance, and song-writing) for a period of one school year. The Fund will also provide the equipment and/or materials necessary to carry out the above activities. Students eligible for the award must be between 9-18 years old and currently enrolled in school. No student affiliated with any board member or employee of the foundation will be eligible for an award. Students who have been previously awarded a scholarship will be eligible to re-apply.

Applications will be screened and scholarships awarded based on the following:

1. Financial need will be considered first, and those families whose combined income is less than \$50,000 will be given top priority. Families with extenuating circumstances that have financial difficulties but do not meet other criteria may also be considered. Provision of financial information is mandatory and will be kept strictly confidential. Social security numbers should be blocked out.
2. A one-page essay from the student describing in his/her own words, what type of lessons they would like to take (type of instrument, dance, or other), and why they have chosen to play an instrument or take up other music related activities.
3. Applicants should provide a short letter of recommendation from a teacher or principal verifying student performance, (no failing grades) and likelihood of success in their music lessons.
4. Agreement from parent(s) or guardians to cooperate towards the goal of furthering the student's music education by ensuring student attendance at lessons.

The scholarships will be awarded to students and families by a majority vote of Board members. Awards will be based on family financial need, student enthusiasm and motivation, and parent commitment. The number of awards and amount of each will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. While our wish is to be able to provide awards to all of our eligible recipients, there will be a limit to the number of awards granted based on available budget. Only one application per family will be considered.

Each prospective student and their parent/guardian will meet individually with a member or members of the Board. These meetings will be held via ZOOM. The student and parent/guardians will be asked to sign a statement of commitment, assuring the committee of their willingness to follow the requirements of the scholarship. The scholarship will be effective for one entire school year. These dates will be determined by the committee in consultation with the student and their family once the award has been announced.

Regular attendance at scheduled lessons is very important and is required. It is a reflection of your commitment. Missed lessons must be rescheduled. Recurring missed lessons and/or no shows may result in termination of the award and the return of the instrument, at the discretion of the Board.

The Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its scholarship awards.

**Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship
Application Form
2026**

Please Print

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____ Grade: _____

School Name: _____ Home Schooled: _____

School Address: _____

What type of music instruction are you applying for? _____

Do you own an instrument or will you need one provided? _____

Instrument needed? _____ What Type? _____

Other (Please describe) _____

Musical activities that you currently participate in or have participated in the past year.

Was this in school or private lessons? _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Email Address: _____

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Email Address: _____

Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Email Address: _____

Financial Information: (See Item No. 1 in Application Information & Guidelines)

Last Year's Adj Gross Income: _____ Current Year Estimated Income: _____

How many children do you have that live in the household? _____

Please provide a copy of pages 1 & 2 from last year's tax return showing adjusted gross income.

Please block out Social security numbers. This information will be kept strictly confidential.

Has your family experienced any unexpected financial hardship, illness, unemployment, etc. in the last 12 months? _____ Please Explain: _____

I agree to actively support my child’s music development and will ensure regular attendance at music lessons.

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian

Application packet should consist of the following and be received no later than April 30, 2026. All applicants will be notified by email or mail after applications have been reviewed. It is estimated that final awards will be determined by approximately July 31, 2026.

- **Application Form**
- **A one page essay from student in his/her own words describing what type of lessons they would like to take (type of instrument, dance, or other), and what has brought them to the decision to take these lessons.**
- **A short letter of recommendation from a Teacher or Principal verifying student performance, (no failing grades) and likelihood of success in their music lessons.**
- **Copy of Report Card certified by School Principal or Teacher that reflects grades above failing.**
- **Copy of last year’s income tax return showing adjusted gross income.**

These materials should be mailed to the following address. Applications will be accepted by email only with prior approval.

**Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund
c/o Mary Ann Murphy
11665 South Rogowski
Merrionette Park, IL 60803**

Questions can be directed to Mary Ann Murphy via email - mjmmusicfund@aol.com

Instructors and instruction locations for the 2026-2027 school year will be determined and approved by the Board of Directors. All award recipients will be required to provide their own transportation to lessons. Lessons may be provided via Zoom based on COVID19 restrictions and instructor/student preferences.

If an instrument is provided to award recipients, it will remain their property following successful completion of an award period. If the student does not show commitment with attending lessons or discontinues attending the lessons awarded, the instrument provided as part of the award should be returned to be used by another student in need.

The size and amount of the scholarships will vary from year to year depending on availability of funding. The number and amount of each award will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.