



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Downingtown High School Music Parents Association	ED/CEO Name: Cheryl Wendt
Address: PO Box 606, Downingtown, PA 19335-0606	ED/CEO E-mail: president@dhsmpa.org
Phone: 484-354-8072	Board Chair Name: Cheryl Wendt
Website: www.dhsmpa.org	Board Chair Approval (check here): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Year Incorporated: 1998	Primary Contact Name: Cheryl Wendt
FEIN: 23-2979607	Primary Contact E-mail: president@dhsmpa.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment, Animals
<input type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice, Civic Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe: Youth Development & Enrichment through Music Education	

Mission:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.)

Annual Budget \$ <u>67,960.00</u>	<u>0</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>98</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>12</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>198</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>3758</u>	# of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Concession Stands, Sponsors, Home Shows, General Fundraising

This grant proposal is for: Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or Capacity Building

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

<input type="checkbox"/> Contingency Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnerships, Collaborations	<input type="checkbox"/> Merger, Closure
<input type="checkbox"/> Mission, Vision, Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Engagement & Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing, Communication
<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:		

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 7,500

Proposal Summary: (a few sentences, please)

The Downingtown High School Music Parents Association (DHSMAPA) supports music education across all three district high schools (East, West, and the STEM Academy) ensuring that more than 650 students have equitable access to programs including band, orchestra, choir, percussion, jazz, and color guard. As an all-volunteer nonprofit, we provide essential financial, logistical, and community support to sustain high-quality instruction, scholarships, performance opportunities, and program enhancements not covered by district funding. Your support ensures students have the tools, opportunities, and experiences they need to thrive, strengthening both their future success and the cultural richness of our community.



Downingtown High School Music Parents Association (DHSMPA)

2025 GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Nonprofit's Overall Aims, Key Initiatives, Key Achievements & Distinctiveness

Overall Aims

The Downingtown High School Music Parents Association (DHSMPA) is a nonprofit organization made up of parents and guardians of students enrolled in any of the music programs across all three Downingtown High Schools: **East Campus, West Campus, and the STEM Academy**. Our mission is to provide program support to maintain the existence, quality, and integrity of music education in the district.

Key Initiatives

We support a broad range of programs including **Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Indoor Percussion, Color Guard, String Orchestra, Choir, Jazz Ensembles, and Chamber Groups**. To ensure equitable access and high-quality instruction, DHSMPA provides:

- **Financial Support** for concert attire, concert folios, instruments, and uniforms.
- **Program Enhancement** through funding for guest clinicians, master classes, and supplemental staff such as percussion instructors, color guard staff, and choir accompanists.
- **Student Opportunity** by offering scholarships to graduating seniors and creating individual student fundraising accounts (DSF Accounts) to offset participation fees, trip expenses, and district activity costs.
- **Volunteer & Logistical Support** including chaperoning trips, competitions, and football games, as well as providing refreshments for concerts and celebrations.

Key Achievements

- Supported **hundreds of students annually** in maintaining full participation in music programs regardless of family financial circumstances.
- Raised and distributed significant funds to cover transportation, equipment, and participation costs.
- Hosted successful community events that connect local families, strengthen appreciation for the arts, and raise visibility for the school district's music programs.
- Consistently provided scholarships and awards that recognize musical excellence, leadership, and service.

Distinctiveness

DHSMPA is unique in its scope and reach. Serving three high schools within the district, it unites a broad community of parents, guardians, directors, and students. Unlike typical booster groups, DHSMPA goes beyond supporting a single program — it sustains an **entire district-wide ecosystem of music education**.

2. Funding Request

Needs & Issues Being Addressed

Despite the proven value of music education, public funding often falls short of covering the full range of expenses required for quality programs. Rising costs for transportation, equipment, staffing, and uniforms create financial barriers for families. Without supplemental support, many students would be unable to participate fully.

Music education has powerful and undeniable effects on student learning, achievement, and lifelong success. Research shows that music instruction:

- **Equips students with foundational learning skills.**
- **Bolsters engagement and achievement in core academic subjects.**
- **Develops capacities essential for long-term success in college, careers, and citizenship.**

By investing in music instruction, funders provide students with the tools they need to succeed academically, socially, and personally — preparing them for bright futures while enriching the cultural life of our community.

Programs & Services Delivered

Funding will directly support:

- Program essentials (attire, instruments, sheet music, uniforms).
- Instructional enhancements (clinicians, sectional coaches, accompanists).
- Student scholarships and financial assistance.
- Community-building events that showcase and sustain the arts.

Why Fund This Now?

Participation in music programs continues to grow across all three schools, while expenses — particularly for travel, staffing, and equipment — are rising. Immediate support ensures no student is excluded due to cost, and that Downingtown's programs remain competitive at the regional and national level.

Your support ensures Downingtown High School music students have the tools, opportunities, and experiences they need to thrive. Together, we can keep our programs top-notch and inspire the next generation.

Results & Impact Demonstrated

Quantitative Outcomes:

- Number of students supported.
- Amount of financial assistance provided.
- Student participation rates in music programs and competitions.

Qualitative Outcomes:

- Student and alumni testimonials.
- Teacher feedback on improved instruction and retention.
- Increased community engagement and attendance at performances.

Our kids' success is our community's success. By supporting DHSMPA, you're investing not only in their future but also in the cultural richness of the entire Downingtown community.