

Pay It Forward Scholarship 2024

WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BAND

2024 Scholarship for Graduating High School Seniors

The Pay It Forward Scholarship has established a \$2,000 scholarship aimed to support students who have demonstrated a strong passion for education and self-improvement while leveraging those skillsets towards helping others in their community. Selected applicants should describe how they have contributed/volunteered and how they see themselves continuing to do so in the future. These applicants will embody a well-rounded character.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants who meet the following conditions are encouraged to apply:

- Can demonstrate consistent volunteerism; participated in at least 2-3 events where the applicant was able to use their skillset for the benefit of others. These volunteering events do not need to be music-related; however, they should highlight how the applicant's talents/passions were able to assist others in their community.
- Applicant must have a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Applicant must demonstrate their intention of continuing to give back to their community throughout college and into post-graduate life. The goal here is to not specify the explicit volunteer organization or timeline but rather an intentional analysis of how volunteering can be incorporated into life after college.
- Have been a member of a high school music program for at least two consecutive years, the last year of which must have been completed at Westfield High School. Exceptions to this may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Submit one letter of recommendation from an adult (pastor/priest, employer, private instructor, neighbor, teacher but not a relative).
- Be accepted or have applied to a two or four-year college/university or other accredited post-secondary program at the time of application. The Pay It Forward Scholarship does not require that the applicant intend to study music at the post-secondary level.

Application Requirements

For an application to be considered, applicants must be eligible (see criteria above) and must submit an essay according to the requirements below:

- Submit a typewritten, double-spaced essay, no more than two pages in length
- Describe two to three volunteering events you have participated in or have coordinated. These volunteering events don't need to be official events through an organization but should highlight how you have given back to others. When describing these volunteering events, detail how you felt during the activity. Feel free to illustrate the extent of your impact on the community through these events. Additionally, portray how you were able to use your talents and/or skills to contribute to the activity. The Pay It Forward Scholarship was crafted to emphasize the importance of giving back to your community using the skills/talents you have gained through the help and guidance of others along the way. By giving back in this way, you pay homage to those who have helped you along the way as well.
- Introspect and formulate a plan on how you can continue giving back along your journey. Times will change as college starts and ends, and jobs begin and change. Take some time and think about these different moments and the time-intensive challenges that come with them. One recommendation is to speak with those mentors in your circle to see how they are or can potentially integrate giving back into their normal routine.
- Please include a short paragraph on your intended major. Include your goals on what career field you intend on entering and why you have selected this career field.

Additionally, submit an updated resume that includes any work experience, school-held positions (i.e. National Honor Society President, Brass Captain in the Marching Band, etc.), and any extracurricular activities you are involved in such as Habitat for Humanity, Scouting, etc.

2024 Pay It Forward Scholarship

Application Details

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check that the following pages are included in this application:

- Completed scholarship application.
- One letter of recommendation from an adult (pastor/priest, employer, private instructor, neighbor, teacher but not a relative),
- Typewritten, double-spaced essay, no more than two pages that covers all of the topics described in the "Application Requirements" section above.
- Filled out "Application Details" worksheet with applicable signatures.
- Updated resume
- Submission of either an acceptance letter or proof of application to a two or four-year college/university, or any other accredited post-secondary program is required. Acceptable documentation includes official correspondence indicating admission or any other official proof of commitment to the chosen institution.

The Pay It Forward Scholarship aims to provide a onetime grant of financial assistance to qualified, graduating seniors from Westfield High School who have demonstrated service to his/her community, academic achievement, and plans to pursue higher education.

Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges based on the quality and impact of their responses. Applicants who demonstrate a talent for creatively using their skills to benefit their community will receive extra consideration. The award will be provided as a check to the applicant – these funds should support school-related expenses such as books, tuition, travel, lodging, etc.

Submit applications by May 16, 2024 to payitforwardsubmissions@gmail.com in a Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe PDF (.pdf) format.

****Note: Recipients must be accepted to a two or four-year college/university by July 1, 2024. If the selected recipient is not accepted by July 1, 2024, another recipient will be selected.***

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application is correct.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____