

Interested in learning to sing or
play an instrument?
Know of any students that would benefit
from a musical education?
Spread the word or apply today!

Contact blankenshipproject@gmail.com
for questions or more information.

Find us at
[www.mtac-alamedaeast.org/
blankenship-project](http://www.mtac-alamedaeast.org/blankenship-project)
to donate or get more
information on how to apply.

The application form can be submitted
online through Google Forms. The form
can be accessed [here](#).

Parents, please help your child fill
out the application.

This project is funded entirely by grants
and donations, so any contributions to
sponsor a student's music education are
greatly appreciated.

Donations are tax-deductible.

Also required is a letter from one of your
teachers. Please scan the letter and
upload as a pdf, or email the files to
blankenshipproject@gmail.com.

HOW CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM THE STUDY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:

Several studies have shown that students
who learn musical instruments from a
young age tend to perform better
academically.

-Music lessons teach students to not
give up easily, but to work hard at their
goals and to keep trying.

-According to brain studies by the
University of Southern California,
children's musical studies translate to
improved focus and cognitive function.
This results in faster development of
intellectual and emotional intelligence.

-"Musical education programs can offset
some of the negative consequences that
low socio-economic status can have on
child development." - Assal Habibi, USC

-Most importantly, students learn to
appreciate and develop a love for music
and the fine arts!

THE BLANKENSHIP MEMORIAL PROJECT

a scholarship program to provide low-cost
music lessons to qualifying students

Brought to you by the
Music Teachers' Association of California:
Alameda County East Branch



WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Scholarships are available to qualifying need-based students
ages 7-18 with a serious interest in learning music.



ALAMEDA COUNTY
EAST BRANCH

BLANKENSHIP MEMORIAL PROJECT

MISSION

The Blankenship Memorial Project is a scholarship program that provides need-based financial aid to qualifying students who wish to sing or play any musical instrument.

BACKGROUND

This project is named in memory of Walter Blankenship, a young amateur pianist who passed away in 1996. Since he loved playing the piano, as well as helping children, his widow and friends thought this would be a fitting tribute to his life. A piano was purchased from the memorial fund organized by Walter's friend, Roger Ide, and placed in the Livermore Gardens Apartment Building. The scholarship came to life with a donation to cover lessons for two months. Since then, the project has grown to include all residents of the Tri-Valley Area.

This project, founded by the Music Teachers' Association of California, Alameda County East Branch, offers music lessons to students from ages 7 to 18 years old. Financial aid is awarded based on household income eligibility.

Weekly lessons taught by only certified members of the MTAC Alameda County East Branch will be provided at a low cost to the student's family.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to legal residents of the U.S. ages 7-18. Requests for financial aid must be accompanied by one of the following: your most recent federal tax return, public assistance documentation, proof of participation in the free/reduced lunch program, or unemployment verification.

SELECTION PROCESS

Students will be selected by a combination of their interest in learning their chosen instrument, coordination on beginning exercises shown to them, and a listening test. The student must also submit a letter of recommendation from one of their teachers, counselors, or principals.

COSTS INVOLVED

The music lessons will be provided by qualified teachers at a reduced rate, depending on need. Instruments can be provided for rent or a donated instrument will be lent to the student if available. Parents are responsible for managing rental payments and arranging for delivery times. Please specify in your application if a rental will be needed.

TIME COMMITMENT

One 30,45, or 60 minute lesson per week will be provided to each student. A minimum of half an hour of practice per day, six days a week is required. Continuation in the program is dependent on the student practicing consistently as stated above. The student may be dropped from the program due to insufficient practice and/or two or more unexcused absences.

MISSED LESSONS

Two lessons may be missed every six months without penalty. If a third lesson is missed, the student will be put on probation. If another lesson is missed, they will be dropped from the program and their place will be given to another student.

FAQ

WHAT TYPES OF MUSIC WILL BE TAUGHT?

The students enrolled in the scholarship program will learn a variety of musical styles from Folk songs, Classical, to popular tunes.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE A STUDENT TO ADVANCE THEIR SKILL LEVEL?

Music students begin with different abilities and learning styles. Generally, it takes at least three to four years before a student is considered intermediate and eight to nine years to begin advanced level pieces. It is a long-term commitment. This program is for students who want to commit to learning for years, rather than months.

MAY MULTIPLE CHILDREN IN THE SAME FAMILY RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP?

If multiple children in the same family are between the ages of 7-18 with an interest in learning to sing or play an instrument, they are both welcome to apply for the scholarship.

WHAT IS THE SCHOLARSHIP VALUE?

Private music lessons in the Tri-Valley Area range from \$30-\$90 a week depending on the experience and education of the teacher. The student will be studying under a qualified MTAC-affiliated teacher.

Instrument rentals can range from \$50-\$200 a month, but arrangements can be made for Blankenship funds to cover a portion of this amount.