September 2020

Dear Principals, Guidance Counselors, Teachers and Program Coordinators,

I am very excited to inform you about a wonderful opportunity for your eighth grade students to earn a scholarship to attend a private, college preparatory high school. The Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund gives high school scholarship assistance and educational support to Chicago students who demonstrate academic potential and financial need. There are currently over 480 DMSF Scholars attending 75 partner high schools, including many parochial, independent and boarding schools. Since 1990, more than 3,000 students have been awarded scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate **financial need, academic ability and leadership potential**. We accept applications from students who reside in **Chicago, Cicero or Berwyn** and who will be in eighth grade during the 2020–2021 school year. Please assist us in our efforts to identify future Murphy Scholars. Students who are interested in applying can access the application on our website, www.dmsf.org/aspiring-scholars. Families should complete the application online, and can create an account username and password so that they do not need to complete the application in one sitting. Teacher and guidance counselor/principal recommendation forms will be emailed to the recommenders via a link, once the student's portion of the application has been submitted electronically. Applicants will also have the opportunity to submit an optional recommendation from a non-teacher/special interest educator.

**All completed applications are due by Friday, October 16, 2020.** DMSF encourages students to submit their applications at least one week in advance of the application deadline to give their recommenders time to complete their portion of the application.

We invite you to learn more about DMSF in the following ways:

- **VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION**  **Friday, September 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**
  Elementary and middle schools and community-based organizations. [Register here](#).

- **VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL FAIR**  **Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
  All students are welcome to attend, but must register for the event. This is a great opportunity to learn more about DMSF and to meet with representatives from over 75 DMSF partner schools. For more information and to register, [please visit our website here](#).

- **VIRTUAL VISIT**
  If you would like a DMSF representative to speak to interested 8th graders about the application process, [please fill out this form here](#) or email DMSF at admissions@dmsf.org.

DMSF appreciates your assistance during this busy time of year. We look forward to seeing you at our High School Fair and to receiving your students’ applications.

Warm regards,

Jose R. Rodriguez  
Executive Director

Cindy Hallums  
Chief Education Officer

Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund
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**DMSF 2021 High School Scholarship At A Glance**

The Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund (DMSF) is a non-profit organization that gives high school scholarship assistance and educational support to Chicago students entering 9th grade in the fall of 2021 who are interested in attending a private high school, but whose family lacks the financial resources to do so. DMSF works to ensure that financial constraints do not hinder a young person’s ability to obtain a quality education, and succeed in high school, college and beyond.

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**Application process and status notification**

1. **Completed applications are reviewed as they are received.**

2. **Qualified applicants and their parents/guardians will be invited to interview this fall.**

Applicants will be notified via email and telephone of their interview appointment approximately two weeks before the interview date.

3. **Applicants who have been interviewed will be notified by email of their scholarship status within two weeks of the interview.**

Scholarship awards will not be final until the applicant completes the following steps:

- **Applies** to a DMSF partnership school
- **Is admitted** into a DMSF partnership school
- **Signs** a scholarship confirmation agreement
- **Completes** the school’s financial aid forms by the school’s deadline and receives financial aid from school
- **Emails** a copy of the school’s acceptance letter and financial aid award letter to DMSF
- **Registers** at the school by the school’s deadline
- **Signs** a DMSF scholarship contract
- **Attends** DMSF’s mandatory two-week Summer Bridge program

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**Frequently asked questions**

**What type of student should apply for the scholarship?**
Students who have demonstrated academic potential, strong character, and financial need are encouraged to apply.

**Do you accept students from any geographic area?**
In order to apply, students must live in Chicago, Cicero or Berwyn.

**What financial needs do you consider?**
Financial need generally means families of four whose income is under $75,000.

**Does my family pay anything?**
Yes, each family is required to pay a portion of their child’s educational expenses. The average family contribution is $3,500 per school year.

**How do I apply?**
Please visit our website at [www.dmsf.org/aspiring-scholars](http://www.dmsf.org/aspiring-scholars) to access the application.

**When is the application deadline?**
The deadline to submit an application is Friday, October 16, 2020.

**How will interviews be conducted?**
In order to keep staff, applicants and volunteers safe, all interviews will be conducted virtually.

**Can the scholarship be applied to any school?**
No, the scholarship only applies to DMSF partnership schools. DMSF retains the right to limit the scholarship award to a specific school or schools.

**How do I obtain information about DMSF partner schools?**
Check the DMSF website for names of partnership schools, and call schools directly or visit their websites for information including open houses, application deadlines and entrance exam dates.