



For Immediate Release:

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Investment in Music Pays Off for Dearborn Students

Whether a child will grow up to be the next Lady Gaga or just use their musical ability to sing in the shower or play guitar at parties, there is great benefit to music and learning, according to PBS Parents. Research shows that by learning music, students gain understanding of other subjects and enhance skills they will use in many areas. The study of music can impact language development, increase IQ and improve test scores.

The students in the Smart Music program at Dearborn’s Fordson High School only know that music makes them happy and look forward to school. “I get happy knowing that I have music that day,” says Nour, a junior. “I learn new things every time.”

Fordson Orchestra Instructor Dan Taylor is glad to hear that. “Parents have asked me ‘why should my child be in this program?’ I remind them that music helps students score higher on SATs (I thought they took ACTs), work in a group effort and develop team work.”

That’s why Taylor approached the Dearborn Education Foundation for a grant for Smart Music technology, which allows him to create an individual curriculum for each student, no matter what the skill level. DFCU Financial was pleased to find out that part of its \$10,000 donation to the Foundation goes toward this program.

“What a great way to start the week, seeing how excited these young musicians are,” said DFCU Branch Manager Caryn Solferino during a recent visit to Fordson to meet the symphony students and present the check to the Foundation. “We are so fortunate to have such committed, artistic students in Dearborn and with these types of donations, make an impact on their learning.”

“We all joined this music program for different reasons but have found a sense of family,” said Fatimah, a 12th grade violin student. “This experience has made me look at my other classes and specific problems differently. Music unlocks my brain somehow.”

Eleventh grader Hussein agrees and adds a sobering commentary: “This study of music has opened so many opportunities for me. I grew up in war-torn Iraq. I would watch music shows on TV and never dreamed I would be here participating in this program. This has been my best experience in high school.”

A few of the students plan to pursue music as a career, but most will experience the rewards of music study. “As a teacher, I can justify a connection to every other area of study and that’s fantastic,” said Taylor. “So many music programs are under budgeted and it was great to be able to access these funds through the Foundation and organizations like DFCU.”

Each year, DFCU Financial donates financial and human resources to several education foundations around the state including Chippewa Valley (Clinton Township), Taylor, Garden City, Livonia, Walled Lake and Birmingham.

About DFCU Financial

DFCU Financial currently operates 28 full-service branches in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Lansing. A strong community partner, DFCU Financial continually reinvests in its membership with new branches and financial literacy education for all ages. DFCU Financial has issued a Cash Back reward to its membership every year since 2006. For more information, call 888.336.2700 or visit dfcufinancial.com.

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