



Please complete and return to Mr. Ford

**JAMES ISAAC GRAY  
PERSEVERANCE  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

The James Isaac Gray Perseverance Scholarship will be awarded to a freshman, sophomore, or junior student in the Tarpon Springs High School Leadership Conservatory for the Arts to aid in the student's membership dues for the following year.

Isaac started his life having been faced with challenges. At 3 months old he was diagnosed with Congenital Bilateral Ptosis along with several other medical challenges. He had his first surgery at 6 months old and was hospitalized for pneumonia at 9 months old. When he was 4, he broke both legs through the tibia and fibula due to a horrible accident. By the age of 6 it was confirmed that he had moderate to severe hearing loss in both ears. At 9 he was diagnosed with an Atrial Septal Defect. Isaac has had 12 surgeries to correct the various medical anomalies he has been faced with so far in his life. Throughout his life he has lived his namesake; James derived from the Latin meaning 'may God protect' and Isaac meaning 'one who laughs'. Due to his surgeries and other challenges, he was not able to start playing little league baseball, his second love after music, until he was a little older. He was behind most of the other players but worked hard every day practicing at home every chance he had, rain or shine. He fought hard to prove himself to his coaches and teammates, even when he was told he would never be a good catcher or great baseball player-he did everything to prove otherwise. He suffered many bruises, bumps and even multiple concussions being behind the plate and every chance he got he jumped back in to be there for his team. He faced adversity along the way and yet persevered. Isaac had a love of music from the day he was born, having no preference in music played for him. He was so excited to start playing an instrument for band and when it was given as an option to attend Tarpon Springs Middle School for the magnet program, he felt his destiny. He knew that was his track to be able to be a part of Dena's alma mater program. He attended numerous Outdoor Music Festivals and concerts before he was accepted to the program and always felt it was his home and family. He heard stories how the program persevered despite challenges. How the legacy of the prior members fought through adversity and persevered to make sure they left a legacy for those coming behind them. Applicants should show dedication to their craft and to the program. They should be compassionate to others, exemplify being a team player, and be loyal to the program and what it stands for. Applicants should also strive to persevere despite what they are faced with or circumstances they are given.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Students must be a current TSLCA Student involved in one or more performance groups (Tarpon Springs Outdoor Performance Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Jazz, Guard/Dance, Percussion), have a minimum GPA of 2.5, and completed at least 1 full year of participation in the program.

**PARTICIPATION:** Scholarship is open to a freshman, sophomore, or junior.

**ESSAY:** Please write a one-page essay addressing the following points:

- Student's goal in the program
- What you plan to get out of the program to carry on after you graduate
- What have you already learned being in the program?
- Please share 1 life event which you have had to persevere and how you were able to do so

