

Dear MR Toni Walker

Subject: Please do not forget about Music Haven

Please do not forget Music Haven funding. This institution is more than a number in the CT budget. Music haven not only offers free tuition for all its students but it offers a commitment of teaching and motivating students to do their best every day. Teachers and administrative staff go above and beyond their duties to find ways to motivate and help every single student and their needs. In our case, our daughter who has some challenges such as learning disabilities and autism, this music program has helped her to improve her social skills as well to improve her confidence during public speaking and during social interactions. As you could imagine this is very hard, but this was not an obstacle for her Viola' teacher- Mr. Gregory- and the Music Haven staff. They found strategies to teach and encourage our daughter in each Viola lesson and in her interactions with her music peers. A "simple" task like positioning her finger on the instrument or public speaking seems like an easy activity, but when you have challenges to coordinate between your brain and your muscles make these "simple" tasks a whole new level of difficult. Please we invite you to reconsider defunding Music Haven and please look behind and beyond the numbers. Because it not only helps kids like our daughter, this program helps other kids with different life challenges and because investing in the kids today will have a huge impact in their future and specially now under conditions of the "new normal" that already hurt families due to pandemic fears, the stress of losing jobs, economic uncertainties and some cases the death of a loved one. Please do forget about Music haven.

Thanks in advance for your help,

Kind regards,

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