

YORKVILLE MUSIC BOOSTERS
INSTRUMENT UPGRADE SCHOLARSHIP

Application — Fall and Spring Cycles

About This Scholarship

The Yorkville Music Boosters awards Instrument Upgrade Scholarships twice each year to help band and orchestra students move from a student/beginner-level instrument to a step-up or professional-level instrument. Awards may be used toward a purchase or rent-to-own agreement.

This scholarship is not an audition or ability-based award. Selection is based on commitment to the music program, consistency of participation, and stated intent to continue playing — not on a performance evaluation.

Award amount available each cycle (Fall and Spring):

Award 1 \$1,000	Award 2 \$1,000	Award 3 \$1,000
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Three \$1,000 awards are given per cycle (\$3,000 per cycle; \$6,000 total per year). Funds are paid directly to the selected vendor and are reimbursed with proper sales documentation.

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled in band or orchestra through Yorkville School District
- Has played the instrument (or instrument family) for at least two years
- Currently plays a student/beginner-level instrument that is limiting continued growth
- Intends to continue in the YMS/YHS band or orchestra program
- Application and director recommendation submitted by the posted deadline

Purchase Window

This scholarship is intended to make an instrument purchase possible, whether that purchase happens just before the application cycle or just after it. An award may be applied to a qualifying instrument as follows:

- Purchased up to 6 months before the application deadline, as a reimbursement to the family or a direct payment to the vendor for an already-completed purchase; or
- Purchased up to 6 months after the award date, when the scholarship funds are needed in order for the student to complete the purchase.

In either case, the purchase must be made through Ellman's Music, Austin's Violin Shop, or approved vendor and proof of purchase (receipt or vendor invoice) must be provided before funds are released or reimbursed.

Application Cycle

- ☐ Fall Cycle (applications due late October; awarded in November)
- ☐ Spring Cycle (applications due early April; awarded in late April)

Student Information

Student Name: _____

Grade (7–12): _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Ensemble (Band / Orchestra) and Director: _____

Instrument you currently play: _____

Years played: _____

Current instrument make/model (student-level): _____

Instrument/model you hope to upgrade to (if known): _____

Preferred vendor: _____

☐ Ellman's Music ☐ Austin's Violin Shop ☐ Other: _____

If purchase already made: date of purchase: _____

If purchase not yet made: anticipated purchase date: _____

Program Involvement (last 12 months)

Check all that apply, and note approximate frequency where relevant.

- ☐ Private lessons How often? _____
- ☐ Marching band / pit / color guard
- ☐ Solo & Ensemble / District or All-State auditions
- ☐ Summer camp, honor band/orchestra, or clinic
- ☐ Community or church ensemble outside of school

Student Statement

In your own words, answer the following on a separate page or in the space below (250–400 words total):

- Why do you want to upgrade this specific instrument, and how has your current instrument limited you?
- How do you see yourself using this instrument through the rest of high school and beyond (college study, community ensembles, private study, etc.)?
- Describe your practice habits and involvement in the program over the past year.

Commitment Agreement

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian agree to the following:

- The student will remain enrolled in YMS/YHS band or orchestra through the end of the current school year.
- The instrument will be kept in good playing condition and used regularly for school ensemble participation.
- Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the selected vendor or reimbursed against a valid receipt for a qualifying purchase made within the allowed purchase window and are not to be used for any other purpose.
- If the student withdraws from the band or orchestra program within one semester of receiving the award for reasons other than schedule conflict beyond their control, the Boosters may request a prorated repayment or return of the instrument, at the Boosters' discretion.
- The Boosters and vendor partners may use the student's name and instrument in promotional materials recognizing the award, unless the family opts out below.

☐ I / We opt OUT of promotional use of our name

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Director Recommendation (to be completed by ensemble director)

Student Name: _____

Director Name: _____

Please comment on the student's attendance, practice habits, attitude, and reliability in the program (this is not a rating of musical ability):

Years you have directed this student: _____

Recommend for scholarship? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes, with reservations (explain above)

Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Committee Use Only — Scoring Rubric

Applicant: _____

Cycle (Fall/Spring) and Year: _____

Criterion	Max Pts	Score
Years in program / depth of commitment shown	4	
Director recommendation strength	4	
Student statement — clarity of purpose & future plans	4	
Program involvement (lessons, camps, leadership, etc.)	4	
TOTAL	16	

Committee members: score independently before discussing as a group. Directors should recuse from scoring students they teach and instead provide narrative input only.

Committee Member Name: _____

Award Recommendation (Award / Not selected this cycle): _____