



**Dear Valued Community Member:**

The Ypsilanti Community High School Band Program is a program rooted deeply in tradition. As the product of both the Ypsilanti Public Schools' and Willow Run Schools' music programs, it is important for us to recognize the legacy of both of the programs we leave behind while focusing on the direction the program is headed.

Last year, out of the 3,723 students in our district, 2,628 qualified for free or reduced lunch, meaning approximately 71% of the families-of-four in our district make less than \$33,000 per year. For a student to participate in all of the activities of the band program, this costs upwards of \$400 per student, with the Spring tour adding an additional \$600 on to their fees. This is out of range for many of our families and we are hoping that you can help.

The current program has recently seen great success on many levels of performance, including superior ratings at Solo and Ensemble, quality performances at District Band Festival, post game performances at Eastern Michigan Football games, a second place finish at the State Championships for Indoor Color Guard, and a First Place Finish at the Windy City Classic Band Festival in Chicago, Illinois. In order to continue on this trend, it is necessary for the students to have the resources to learn, practice, and perform.

Along with the constant need for instrument repairs, maintenance supplies, music, and uniform repairs, the band is also planning a Spring Tour to Florida, where the Symphonic Band will perform at the Epcot Center, and all students attending will be given the opportunity to attend a workshop provided by one of many talented musicians in the Disney Enterprise. Outside of the classroom, the marching band also travels annually to band camp, where they learn the fundamentals of marching, playing, and their halftime as well as pregame shows.

On our website, [YCHSbands.org](https://ychsbands.org), if you click the "how you can help" link, you can donate money for a variety of purposes: You can sponsor the purchase of a new dress for one of the female students in the band, assist in the purchase of a new piece of music, supply repair and maintenance of instruments, or even sponsor a student for their trip to either band camp or the Spring tour. Or, if you would prefer, you can make a check out to the "Ypsilanti Community Band Association," and send it to:

Ypsilanti Community Band Association  
2095 Packard Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

These students deserve to have the kind of program that can match their spirit and passion towards the musical arts. Our goal is to make sure our students have the same fulfilling music education experience as their regional peers, regardless of family wealth. We appreciate any thought you can give to helping our students in the hopes of keeping music education in our public school district alive and growing.

Thank you,

Scott Hawkins  
Director of Bands  
Ypsilanti Community High School  
<https://ychsbands.org>