

Duke University String School
Scholarship Assistance
2026 – 2027 Application

Under the Duke University String School (DUSS) **Dorothy Kitchen Scholarship Fund**, families may apply for scholarship assistance. Scholarships typically cover 75%, 50%, or 25% of tuition costs and may be applied to Ensemble/Group Classes, Chamber Music, and/or Private Lessons.

Scholarship awards are based on availability of funds in the scholarship program and approval by the DUSS Director based one or more of the following criteria:

1. **Financial need:** a copy of the most recent year's 1040 tax return (SSN redacted) for all parents is required. You may include a letter detailing current financial situation if the tax form does not reflect your current income.
2. **Parent involvement:** such as ensemble assistant, accompanist, concert coordinator, etc.
3. **J. Samuel Hammond Ensemble Scholarship:** for participation on a second instrument (viola, cello, bass) in an additional ensemble. Scholarship covers 100% of second ensemble fee.

Scholarship Assistance is open to all registered students who provide a complete and accurate application with supporting documentation, meet the criteria, and have no outstanding fees.

Students applying for assistance for the first time are required to ask for a recommendation from a teacher or other adult supervisor (i.e. classroom teacher, choir conductor, after school program director, etc). Your referral should include information on the student's character, ability on their instrument if applicable, and family commitment and must be sent directly to the DUSS director via email at erica.shirts@duke.edu.

Applications and any supporting documents must be received by Monday, August 31, 2026.

We prefer that you email your documents for faster processing if possible. Please redact (blackout) any sensitive information, or add a password protection to the forms. Email to: erica.shirts@duke.edu.

Scholarship decisions are generally emailed within one week of the deadline. If a scholarship is awarded, the student will receive a Notice of Acceptance to sign. If a scholarship is not awarded, families will have an opportunity to submit a Notice of Appeal.

Any Notice of Acceptance must be signed by the applicant and returned to the Director within five (5) days, confirming:

1. Acceptance of the award and amount
2. Family member's agreement to help sign up to volunteer during concert weekends
3. The applicant's commitment and obligation to pay the remaining balance due. (Note: When scholarships are awarded, the amount awarded will be applied to the fees, with the applicant responsible for paying the balance.)
4. Continuation of scholarship assistance each semester relies upon attendance, normal progress, and expected behavior.

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Due August 31, 2026

Full Name of Student: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Number of Years Participating in DUSS: _____ Do you have a Private lesson Teacher*? _____

Private Lesson Teacher's Name: _____ Instrument _____

Length of Lesson (30, 45, 60 mins) _____ Number of Children Participating in DUSS: _____

Number of Members in Household: _____ Are you a Kidznotes Applicant (check one)? Yes ___ No ___

Indicate which type of scholarship is requested:

1. Ensemble/Group Class _____ 2. Chamber Music/Theory: _____ 3. Private Lesson: _____

Please attach any additional information you feel should be considered. If this is the student's first time applying, **please include a recommendation**. (Note: If this application is based on financial need, you must include a copy of all parents' 1040 tax return for us to consider the application. Please do not include additional Schedule forms -- just the 1040 form.)

I would like to be considered for:

1. Financial Need _____ 2. Parent Involvement: _____ 3. Additional Ensemble: _____

Family member and contact information willing and able to volunteer at concerts or similar events:

Name _____ Best Contact _____

Signature of family member willing and able to volunteer: _____

The information that I have provided is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge; and I will notify the DUSS Director in writing of any significant changes to the information submitted in or with this application.

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Students applying for a scholarship for lessons will need to secure a lesson time with a teacher before an offer can be sent.