

NAMM FOUNDATION NAMES THE 'BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION'

Designation recognizes community support for music education program.

The NAMM Foundation today announced the results of the ninth annual “Best Communities for Music Education” survey, which includes 110 school districts across the U.S. The designated programs exemplify community commitment to include music education as part of a quality education for all children. The NAMM Foundation and its music education advocacy efforts work to ensure that all children have access to quality music education programs that encourage lifelong participation in music making.

This year’s roster of musical schools represents 29 states with New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia representing the most districts.

Hundreds of teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders, representing communities in all 50 states, participated in the Web-based survey. The districts were measured across a variety of program support, curricular and programmatic criteria. Furthermore, the results were measured proportionally, so that communities of different sizes were compared equally.

Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, enrollment, student/teacher ratios, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, private music lesson participation, and other relevant factors in their communities’ music education programs. The responses were verified with district officials, and the sponsoring organizations reviewed the data.

“We commend these school districts for their commitment to assuring that music is part of a complete education for children,” said Mary Luehrsen, executive director, NAMM Foundation. “It takes the commitment of an entire community to assure that music is part of the core curriculum. Children engaged in music will be the innovation leaders of tomorrow, and there is no better way to build life-long participation in music than with a solid base of music education.”

Luehrsen also noted that throughout the survey’s eight years several districts have reported that making the “Best Communities” list has had a tangible effect on their ability to preserve music for their students. This year, recipients cited increased enrollment in music programs and more support from parents and community members as they realize the physical, mental and emotional value music education brings to students.

Research reveals strong correlations between quality music education in school and academic achievement. Students actively involved with music programs develop skills needed by the 21st century workforce, including critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication and team work.

In conducting the annual survey, the NAMM Foundation is joined by advisory organizations in the fields of music and education: Americans for the Arts (www.americansforthearts.org), League of American Orchestras (www.americanorchestras.org), The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation (www.mhopus.org), The Metropolitan Opera Guild (www.operaed.org), Music for All (www.musicforall.org), Music Teachers National Association (www.mtna.org), National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts (www.nationalguild.org), National PTA (www.pta.org), Yamaha Corporation of America (www.yamaha.com) and VH1 Save The Music Foundation (www.vh1savethemusic.com). The survey was conducted by Enterprise Feedback Management company, Vovici, (www.vovici.com).

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs from the international music products industry. For more information, visit www.nammfoundation.org.

The complete “Best Communities for Music Education in America” roster is listed alphabetically below.

School District	City	State
Abington School District	Abington	Pennsylvania
Academy District 20	Colorado Springs	Colorado
Albion Central School District	Albion	New York
Allendale Public Schools	Allendale	New Jersey
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Ann Arbor	Michigan
Arlington Independent School District	Arlington	Texas
Baltimore County Public Schools	Towson	Maryland
Bay Shore UFSD	Bay Shore	New York
Bay Village City School District	Bay Village	Ohio
Beachwood City Schools	Beachwood	Ohio
Belmont Public Schools	Belmont	Massachusetts
Benjamin Franklin Classical charter Public School	Franklin	Massachusetts
Berea City School District	Berea	Ohio
Big Horn County School District #2	Lovell	Wyoming
Black River Public School	Holland	Michigan
Bolivar R-1 Schools	Bolivar	Missouri
Brevard Public Schools	Viera	Florida
Bristol Virginia City Schools	Bristol	Virginia
Carmel Clay Schools	Carmel	Indiana
Carrollton/Farmers Branch ISD	Carrollton	Texas
Central York School District	York	Pennsylvania
Cheshire Public Schools	Cheshire	Connecticut
Chesterfield County Public Schools	Chesterfield	Virginia
Clarence Central Schools, NY	Clarence	New York
Clark County School District	Las Vegas	Nevada
Cleveland School District	Cleveland	Mississippi
Clovis Municipal Schools	Clovis	New Mexico
Commack Public Schools	East Northport	New York
Community Unit School District 300	Carpentersville	Illinois
Coppell Independent School District	Coppell	Texas
Cuyahoga Heights School District	Cleveland	Ohio
David Douglas School District	Portland	Oregon
DeKalb Schools	Decatur	Georgia
Denton Independent School District	Denton	Texas
Dubuque Community Schools	Dubuque	Iowa
Ephrata Area School District	Ephrata	Pennsylvania
Fairfax County Public Schools	Falls Church	Virginia
Fargo Public Schools	Fargo	North Dakota
Flemington-Raritan Regional School District	Flemington	New Jersey
Folsom Cordova Unified School District	Folsom	California
Fulton County Schools	Atlanta	Georgia
Garnet Valley School District	Glen Mills	Pennsylvania
Great Neck Union Free School District	Great Neck	New York

Greenwich Public Schools	Greenwich	Connecticut
Guilderland Central School District	Guilderland	New York
Half Hollow Hills Central School District	Dix Hills	New York
Henrico County Public Schools	Richmond	Virginia
Hidalgo Independent School District	Hidalgo	Texas
Hillsborough County Public Schools	Tampa	Florida
Hilton Central Schools	Hilton	New York
Hortonville Area School District	Hortonville	Wisconsin
Hudson School District	Hudson	Wisconsin
Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District	Bedford	Texas
Island Trees School District	Levittown	New York
Jericho Union Free School District	Jericho	New York
Joliet Public Schools District 86	Joliet	Illinois
Jordan Utah School District	Sandy	Utah
Klein Independent School District	Klein	Texas
Lakeshore Public Schools	Stevensville	Michigan
Lawrence Township School District	Lawrenceville	New Jersey
Lebanon City Schools	Lebanon	Ohio
LeRoy Central School	Le Roy	New York
Letcher County Schools	Whitesburg	Kentucky
Lewisville Independent School District	Flower Mound	Texas
Littleton Public Schools	Littleton	Colorado
Liverpool Central School District	Liverpool	New York
Longwood Central School District	Yaphank	New York
Loudoun County Public Schools	Ashburn	Virginia
Lynn Public Schools	Lynn	Massachusetts
Malta School District	Malta	Montana
Metuchen School District	Metuchen	New Jersey
Montgomery County Public Schools	Christiansburg	Virginia
Monticello Central School District	Monticello	New York
MSD Lawrence Township	Indianapolis	Indiana
Nanuet Union Free School District	Nanuet	New York
Niagara Wheatfield Central	Niagara Falls	New York
North Allegheny School District	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
North Babylon Union Free Schools	North Babylon	New York
North Rockland Central School District	North Garnerville	New York
Nutley School District	Nutley	New Jersey
Olmsted Falls City Schools	Olmsted Falls	Ohio
Oppenheim-Ephratah Central School	St. Johnsville	New York
Ossining Union Free School District	Ossining	New York
Paramus Public School District	Paramus	New Jersey
Pasadena Independent School District	Pasadena	Texas
Pequannock Township School District	Pompton Plains	New Jersey
Perrysburg Exempted Village School District	Perrysburg	Ohio
Plano Independent School District	Plano	Texas
Polk County Schools	Lakeland	Florida
Port Jefferson School District	Port Jefferson	New York

Pulaski Community Schools	Pulaski	Wisconsin
Putnam Valley Central School District	Putnam Valley	New York
Quaker Valley School District	Sewickley	Pennsylvania
Randolph Township Schools	Randolph	New Jersey
Roanoke County public school	Roanoke	Virginia
Rush-Henrietta CSD	Henrietta	New York
Santa Monica-Malibu USD	Santa Monica	California
South Amboy School District	South Amboy	New Jersey
South Huntington Union Free School District	Huntington Station	New York
Springville Griffith Institute and Central School	Springville	New York
St. John School District	St. John	Washington
State College Area School District	State College	Pennsylvania
Sycamore Community Unit School District #427	Sycamore	Illinois
Syosset Central School District	Syosset	New York
Torrington Public Schools	Torrington	Connecticut
Township of Union School Districts	Union	New Jersey
Valier Public Schools District #18	Valier	Montana
Washoe County School district	Reno	Nevada
Webster Central School District	Webster	New York
West Des Moines Community School District	West Des Moines	Iowa

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