

# Nationwide Survey Finds the 'Best Communities for Music Education' in U.S.

NAMM Foundation Honors School Districts with Strong Dedication to Music Programs



**CARLSBAD, Calif., April 16, 2009**—The NAMM Foundation today announced the results of its tenth annual “Best Communities for Music Education” survey, which acknowledges schools and districts across the U.S. for their commitment and support of music education in schools. As the economy challenges state and local school budgets to adequately support education, the 124 school districts named by the NAMM Foundation demonstrate the unwavering commitment to provide music education for their students. The NAMM Foundation’s mission is 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 21 states with a record amount of communities from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas. A total of 29 communities are new to the roster. The complete list of “Best Communities” is appended below.

“The potential of music to help children reach their full development is understood by the school districts represented in this year’s survey results,” said Mary Luehrsen, executive director, NAMM Foundation. “We celebrate these communities that are committed to providing access to music education programs and bettering the lives of their students.”

The 2009 survey, which opened on Thursday January 15, and ended Friday, March 13, was available to all districts nationwide. This year, teachers and school district administrators, representing communities across the country, participated in the Web-based survey. The districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria as well as public support of their music programs. The survey was developed and administered by The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and other relevant factors in their communities’ music education programs. The responses were verified with district officials, and advisory organizations reviewed the data.

Throughout the survey's ten years, many districts have reported that making the "Best Communities" list has had a positive effect on their ability to preserve music for their students amid budget cuts in arts programs.

In conducting the annual survey, the NAMM Foundation is joined by advisory organizations in the fields of music and education including, Americans for the Arts ([www.americansforthearts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org)), League of American Orchestras ([www.americanorchestras.org](http://www.americanorchestras.org)), The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation ([www.mhopus.org](http://www.mhopus.org)), The Metropolitan Opera Guild ([www.operaed.org](http://www.operaed.org)), Music for All ([www.musicforall.org](http://www.musicforall.org)), Music Teachers National Association ([www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)), National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts ([www.nationalguild.org](http://www.nationalguild.org)), National PTA ([www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)), Yamaha Corporation of America ([www.yamaha.com](http://www.yamaha.com)) and VH1 Save The Music Foundation ([www.vh1savethemusic.com](http://www.vh1savethemusic.com)). The survey was conducted by The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, KS, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

The complete "Best Communities for Music Education" roster is listed alphabetically below:

<b><u>School District</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>	<b><u>State</u></b>
Abington School District	Abington	PA
Albion Central School District	Albion	NY
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Ann Arbor	MI
Arlington Independent School District	Arlington	TX
Avon Lake City School District	Avon Lake	OH
Baltimore County Public Schools	Towson	MD
Bay Shore Union Free School District	Bay Shore	NY
Bay Village City School District	Bay Village	OH
Beachwood City Schools	Beachwood	OH
Bedford Central School District	Mount Kisco	NY
Belmont Public Schools	Belmont	MA
Berea City School District	Berea	OH
Bethel Public Schools	Bethel	CT
Boardman Local Schools	Boardman	OH
Bolivar R-1 School District	Bolivar	MO
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD	Carrollton	TX
Cedar Grove-Belgium School District	Cedar Grove	WI
Central Cambria School District	Ebensburg	PA
Central York School District	York	PA
Chesapeake Public Schools	Chesapeake	VA
Cheshire Public Schools	Cheshire	CT
Clarence Central School	Clarence	NY
Clark County School District	Las Vegas	NV
Clarkstown Central School District	New City	NY
Cobb County School District	Marietta	GA
Conestoga Valley School District	Lancaster	PA
Cuyahoga Heights Schools	Cleveland	OH

Dearborn Public Schools	Dearborn	MI
Denton Independent School District	Denton	TX
District 279 - Osseo Area Schools	Maple Grove	MN
Dover Area School District	Dover	PA
East Meadow Union Free School District	Westbury	NY
Edmonds School District	Edmonds	WA
Fairfax County Public Schools	Falls Church	VA
Fayetteville-Manlius Schools	Manlius	NY
Franklin Township Public Schools	Somerset	NJ
Fulton County Schools	Atlanta	GA
Great Neck Union Free School District	Great Neck	NY
Greenwich Public Schools	Greenwich	CT
Guilderland Central School District	Guilderland	NY
Harborfields Central School District	Greenlawn	NY
Harford County Public Schools	Bel Air	MD
Henrico County Public Schools	Richmond	VA
Herricks Union Free School District No. 9	New Hyde Park	NY
Hewlett Woodmere Public Schools	Woodmere	NY
Hilliard City School District	Hilliard	OH
Homewood City Schools	Homewood	AL
Hopewell Valley Regional School District	Pennington	NJ
Hortonville Area School District	Hortonville	WI
Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District	Bedford	TX
Jenison Public Schools	Jenison	MI
Jericho Union Free School District	Jericho	NY
Johnson City Central School District	Johnson City	NY
Katy Independent School District	Katy	TX
Klein Independent School District	Klein	TX
Laramie County School District #1	Cheyenne	WY
Lawrence Township Public Schools	Lawrenceville	NJ
Lebanon City Schools	Lebanon	OH
Le Roy Central Schools	Le Roy	NY
Liverpool Central School District	Liverpool	NY
Longwood Central School District	Yaphank	NY
Loudoun County Public Schools	Ashburn	VA
Lower Merion School District	Ardmore	PA
Manhasset Public Schools	Manhasset	NY
Metuchen Public Schools	Metuchen	NJ

Midway Independent School District	Waco	TX
Milaca School District #912	Milaca	MN
Mineola Union Free School District	Garden City Park	NY
Montgomery County Public Schools	Christiansburg	VA
Monticello Central School District	Monticello	NY
Mount Lebanon School District	Pittsburgh	PA
Nanuet Union Free School District	Nanuet	NY
New Hartford Central School District	New Hartford	NY
Newfield Central School District	Newfield	NY
North Allegheny School District	Pittsburgh	PA
North Babylon Union Free School District	North Babylon	NY
North Penn School District	Lansdale	PA
Northmont High School-Northmont City Schools	Clayton	OH
Northwest Independent School District	Justin	TX
Northwestern Lehigh Elementary School-Northwestern Lehigh School District	New Tripoli	PA
Nutley School District	Nutley	NJ
Oceanside School District	Oceanside	NY
Olmsted Falls City School District	Olmsted Falls	OH
Oppenheim-Ephratah Central School District	St. Johnsville	NY
Osage County R-II	Linn	MO
Paramus Public Schools	Paramus	NJ
Pasadena Independent School District	Pasadena	TX
Pasco School District Number 1	Pasco	WA
Pennsbury School District	Fairless Hills	PA
Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools	Perrysburg	OH
Phillips-Edison Partnership School	Napa	CA
Piscataway Public Schools	Piscataway	NJ
Plano Independent School District	Plano	TX
Port Jefferson School District	Port Jefferson	NY
Potsdam Central Schools	Potsdam	NY
Putnam Valley Central School District	Putnam Valley	NY
Quaker Valley School District	Sewickley	PA
Richland County School District One	Columbia	SC
Roanoke County Schools	Roanoke	VA
Rosemount High School-Rosemount-Apple Valley School District	Rosemount	MN
Salem-Keizer School District 24-J	Salem	OR

Santa Monica-Malibu USD	Santa Monica	CA
Sayville Public Schools	Sayville	NY
Scarsdale UFSD	Scarsdale	NY
Shaker Heights City School District	Shaker Heights	OH
Simsbury Public Schools	Simsbury	CT
South Orange Maplewood School District	Maplewood	NJ
St. John-Endicott Cooperative Schools	St. John	WA
Stow-Munroe Falls City School District	Stow	OH
Syosset Central School District	Syosset	NY
Torrington Public Schools	Torrington	CT
Troy School District	Troy	MI
Virginia Beach City Public Schools	Virginia Beach	VA
Wappingers Central School District	Wappingers Falls	NY
Washoe County School District	Reno	NV
Webster Central School District	Webster	NY
West Genesee Central School District	Camillus	NY
West Hartford Public Schools	West Hartford	CT
West Irondequoit Central School District	Rochester	NY
West Milford Township Public Schools	West Milford	NJ
West Orange Public Schools	West Orange	NJ
Willard R-II Schools	Willard	MO
Williamsport Area School District	Williamsport	PA
Williamsville Central School District	East Amherst	NY

**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.

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