

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM HONORED AS A "BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION"

CCSD Honored Eight Consecutive Years

Athens, Georgia — The Clarke County School District has been honored as one of the *Best Communities for Music Education* from The NAMM Foundation for outstanding commitment to music education. CCSD has received this national recognition for eight consecutive years.

Now in its 21st year, the *Best Communities for Music Education* designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify, CCSD provided detailed information about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

This award recognizes the district is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the replacement for the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). ESSA recommends music and the arts as essential elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

"Music education is an integral part of educating the whole child. Learning opportunities in the Fine Arts create spaces for students to apply and connect skills across all content," states Dan Smith, Curriculum Coordinator of Fine Arts, Health, & Physical Education.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. After two years of music education, research found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores. Social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

"Music is an important component of educating students, inspiring and igniting creativity inside and outside the classroom. Congratulations to our schools and staff for this recognition," states Dr. Xernona Thomas, interim superintendent.

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,400 members around the world. The foundation advances active participation in music-making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

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