



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA ALERT** – Tuesday, April 2, 2024

**Fargo Public School District #1**

## **FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

Fargo Public Schools has received national recognition for its commitment to music education.

**WHAT:** NAMM Best Communities for Music Education

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Fargo Public Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. FPS joins 975 districts across the country in receiving the prestigious award in 2024. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> time FPS has received this designation in the 25 years the award has been granted. Only 10 school districts have received this award more times than Fargo Public Schools.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to school districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Districts that have been recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.

“This award is a testament to the robust and enriching music education our district’s talented, dedicated, and inspirational music teachers provide to students in Fargo Public Schools, the benefits of which are seemingly endless,” FPS Performing Arts Facilitator Patrick Thiel said. “Music has the comprehensive power to develop students cognitively, socially, and emotionally, as well as enhance critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills while eliciting and encouraging creativity. An award such as this doesn’t happen by accident. Every stakeholder in this community has played a vital role in earning this distinction.”

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, FPS answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 15,000 member companies and individual professionals. 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](http://www.nammfoundation.org).

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