



# Seneca Valley School District

## Press Release

### ***For Immediate Release***

Contact: Linda Andreassi, Communications Director – (724) 452-6040, ext. 1612 or via email @ [andreassill@svsd.net](mailto:andreassill@svsd.net)

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## **SENECA VALLEY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION SUPPORT**

***JACKSON TWP, PA. (April 15, 2024)*** – Seneca Valley School District has been recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation with the prestigious designation of Best Communities for Music Education, in acknowledgment of its exceptional dedication to music education.

Now in its 25th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Seneca Valley 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 by school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

“We are honored to be chosen for this prestigious award that reflects the success of our music program,” said Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction, grades 7-12. “Our instructors have cultivated a longstanding curriculum that resonates deeply with students, fostering a culture of exceptional dedication among our talented musicians. The unwavering support by our parents, staff and administration has been instrumental in the impact of music education across the District.”

Music education is valuable for all students and Seneca Valley has a rich tradition of musical excellence. Seneca Valley’s music program provides opportunities for students to collaborate, express themselves and explore how music relates to cultural and historical events.

“Music education is vital in our schools; it’s not only academic, but it’s expressive, emotional and inspiring,” said Varden Armstrong, Seneca Valley Marching Band Director and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Performing Arts Coordinator. “We are honored to receive this designation due to the legacy of the music programs we have within the SV community. This award reflects the hard work of our staff, the support of the district and community, and the rich traditions established by those who came before us.”

### **About The NAMM Foundation**

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 15,000 global member companies and individual professionals worldwide. 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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