



Big Beaver Falls Area School District Receives National Recognition for Music Education For the First Time Ever!

Beaver Falls, PA – 4/5/2024 Big Beaver Falls Area School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 25th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to school districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, music faculty from the school answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and 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.

"Music education plays a vital role in shaping well-rounded individuals. It not only cultivates artistic expression but also enhances cognitive skills, boosts self-confidence, and promotes cultural appreciation. It's crucial to advocate for the preservation and expansion of music programs to ensure that every child has access to the transformative power of music", says Robbie Goode, Director of Bands at Beaver Falls Middle and High School. "We are unbelievably proud of the accomplishments of our music students here at Beaver Falls and the strong, growing music education program that we have." Superintendent Dr. Donna Nugent says, "Music education is an integral part of our district's curriculum, fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork among our students. It enriches their lives, enhances academic performance, and cultivates a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Being recognized as one of the 'Best Communities for Music Education' validates our commitment to providing a comprehensive music education program that empowers students to excel creatively and academically."

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school, but also to attend college as well. In addition, everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to perceiving speech in a noisy background, paying attention, and keeping sounds in memory. Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound, young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and giving and receiving constructive criticism.

The Big Beaver Falls Area School District is a public school district in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. The district serves the City of Beaver Falls, the Boroughs of Big Beaver, Eastvale, Homewood, Koppel, New Galilee and White Township. The district is compiled of two elementary schools, the middle and high school. This is the first time that Big Beaver Falls Area School District has been given this distinction from the NAMM Foundation.

About The NAMM Foundation The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit organization supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) and its 15,000 global member companies and individual professionals worldwide. Our mission is to advance 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 nammfoundation.org.