



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT – Monday, May 12, 2025

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

CONTACT: **Patrick Thiel**, FPS Performing Arts Curriculum Facilitator, thielp@fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.446.4440 for more information.

Fargo Public Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for their outstanding support and commitment to music education. Now in its 26th 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. FPS has received this award for 16 consecutive years and 22 times overall.

Two awards are given each year: Best Communities for Music Education for school districts and the SupportMusic Merit Award for individual school sites. Both reach K-12 schools and districts throughout the U.S. and offer opportunities to increase awareness and support for music programs. More than 1,000 districts and individual school sites were recognized for having the highest commitment to producing exceptional music 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 by school officials and reviewed by Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by the leading arts educational research firm, WolfBrown.

The NAMM Foundation is the charitable arm of the National Association of Music Merchants, the global trade association for the music products industry. The foundation works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. By investing in bold ideas and innovative solutions, we strive to build inclusive and thriving musical communities. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

[END]