



Seneca Valley School District

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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<Photo attached.>

SENECA VALLEY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION SUPPORT

JACKSON TWP, PA. (May 22, 2026) – Seneca Valley School District has once again been honored by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation with the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education designation, recognizing the district's outstanding commitment to music education. This marks the fourth time Seneca Valley has earned this distinguished recognition.

Now in its 27th 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, music class participation, instruction time, facilities and community support. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by the leading arts educational research firm, WolfBrown.

"We are honored to once again receive this prestigious designation, which reflects the longstanding excellence of music education at Seneca Valley," said Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Education. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our talented staff and student musicians, as well as the unwavering support of our parents, administration and community. It celebrates both the strong traditions built over time and the continued impact of our music program today."

Music education plays an important role in the growth and success of all students, and Seneca Valley proudly continues its longstanding legacy of musical excellence. Through the district's music program, students are encouraged to collaborate, express their creativity and deepen their understanding of the connections between music, culture and history. This year, numerous Seneca Valley student musicians advanced to the state level of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA), earning the opportunity to perform at the prestigious PMEA All-State Conference and Festival, among many other notable achievements.

"This recognition exemplifies the honored traditions as well as the continual growth of all of our music programs," said Varden Armstrong, Seneca Valley Marching Band Director and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Performing Arts Coordinator. "The district's investment in the new Performing Arts Center/Auditorium further demonstrates the support for the performing arts throughout the Seneca Valley community. We are honored to be nationally recognized as a destination for excellence in music education."

About The NAMM Foundation

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.