



For Immediate Release

Stow, Ohio (April 21, 2009)

Stow-Munroe Falls High School Named Best Community for Music Education

STOW, OHIO—April 20, 2009— Stow-Munroe Falls City School District is proud to announce Stow-Munroe Falls High School has been nationally recognized as a “Best Community for Music Education.” The appointment acknowledges school districts across the United States for their commitment and support of music education in schools.

As the economy challenges state and local school budgets to adequately support education, the 124 school districts named by the NAMM Foundation demonstrate the unwavering commitment to provide music education for their students. The NAMM Foundation’s mission is to ensure that all children have access to quality music education programs that encourage lifelong participation in music making. This year’s roster of musical schools represents 21 states. A complete list of “Best Communities” can be found by visiting www.nammfoundation.org.

“This says a great deal about our community and school,” said Brian Monroe, Stow-Munroe Falls High School band director. “We have a number of students who each year continue their music education in some of the finest colleges in the country. We also have former students who are music teachers (both public school and college), music administrators/business people, and students who play professionally in orchestras around the country.”

The 2009 survey, which opened on Thursday January 15 and ended Friday, March 13, was available to all school districts nationwide. This year, teachers and school district administrators representing communities across the country, participated in the Web-based survey, which was developed and administered by University of Kansas affiliate The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service. The districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria as well as public support of their music programs.

Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and other relevant factors in their communities’ music education programs. The responses were verified with district officials, and advisory organizations reviewed the data.

“We are very proud that our high school has achieved this fine distinction,” said Dr. Russ Jones SMFCSD superintendent. “Being selected as one of 124 school communities across the country by the prestigious NAMM Foundation is a great honor. I applaud the students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members who support our outstanding music programs”.

Throughout the survey’s ten years, many districts have reported that making the “Best Communities” list has had a positive effect on their ability to preserve music for their students amid budget cuts in arts programs.

“By having a strong music program we are creating a love for the arts and teaching the students qualities such as work ethic, persistence, and always striving for excellence,” said Monroe. “I also truly feel that by studying music, you are not only making yourself a well rounded person, but are making yourself smarter. The music standards, set forth by the State of Ohio have five

areas that touch upon all the disciplines taught in schools. By studying music, kids can create a connection to these disciplines. Who among us did not learn our ABC's to a song? The Greeks in the dark ages and Sesame Street got the ideas right. Music is the connection between the disciplines.”

In conducting the annual survey, the NAMM Foundation is joined by advisory organizations in the fields of music and education including, Americans for the Arts, League of American Orchestras, The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, The Metropolitan Opera Guild, Music for All, Music Teachers National Association, National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, National PTA, Yamaha Corporation of America and VH1 Save The Music Foundation.

The Stow-Munroe Falls School District is rated Excellent with Distinction, an honor held only by 74 school districts out of 612 statewide. For more information, visit www.smfcsd.org.

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs from the international music products industry.

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