

**CONTACT**

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Metro Schools' Music Education Program Receives National Recognition

Nashville named a Best Community for Music Education for the Fourth Time

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 8, 2017) – For the fourth year in a row, Metro Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Metro Schools is one of four Tennessee districts recognized in 2017.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Districts that have been recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.

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

This award recognizes that Metro Schools is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the new federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation, signed into law in December 2015, replaces No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing—while leaving behind subject such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of well-rounded education for all children.

Community music programs have been drawing increased attention because of a landmark study by Northwestern University brain scientists. These researchers found new links between students in community music programs and academic success in subjects such as reading. Beyond the Northwestern study, other reports indicate that learning to play music can boost academic and social skills, such as processing math and learning to cooperate in group settings.

A 2015 study, “Striking A Chord” supported by the NAMM Foundation, also outlines the overwhelming desire by teachers and parents for music education opportunities for all children as part of the school curriculum.



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Schedule of Music Education events available for photos, videos and interviews:

Monday, May 8

McGavock High School
3150 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
8th graders from area middle schools visit
McGavock Band and rehearse on stage at
2:00 p.m.
Band Concert at 6:30 p.m.
Contact: David Hazlett, band director
John.hazlett@mnps.org
Principal: Robbin Wall

Tuesday, May 9

Bellevue Middle School
655 Colice-Jeanne Road
Nashville, TN 37221

7th/8th grade Strings performance in
auditorium at 6:15 p.m.

Symphonic Band performance at 7:15 p.m.
Contacts: Paul Waters, band director
James.waters@mnps.org

Amanda Funderburk, strings director
Amanda.funderburk@mnps.org
Principal: Mark Pittman

Wednesday, May 10

Eakin Elementary
2500 Fairfax Ave.
Nashville, TN 37212
Disney Musicals in the Schools
performance— Jungle Book
9 a.m.
Contact: Rita Black, music teacher
Rita.black@mnps.org
Principal: Dr. Timothy Drinkwine

Thursday, May 11

Meigs Academic Magnet
713 Ramsey St.
Nashville, TN 37206
8th Grade Band class 10:20 – 11:15 a.m.
5th Grade Band class A 12:00 – 12:45 p.m.
5th Grade Band class B 12:50 – 1:45 p.m.
6th Grade Band class 2:15 – 3:00 p.m.
Recital Performances 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Contact: Franklin Norris, Director of Bands
Franklin.norris@mnps.org
Principal: Dr. Scott Underwood

Friday, May 12

Crieve Hall Elementary
498 Hogan Road
Nashville, TN 37220
Elementary Music Class
9:05-10:05 3rd Grade
11:15-12:15 2nd Grade
12:45-1:45 Kindergarten
1:50-2:50 1st Grade
Contact: Alaina Schwartz
Alaina.yates@mnps.org
Principal: Nate Miley

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METRO
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PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

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MUSIC MAKES US

Music Makes Us IS music education in Metro Nashville Public Schools. This unique public/private partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools, Mayor Megan Barry, and the Nashville music community provides meaningful support for music in our schools. We believe that music is an essential component of a well-rounded education. Music Makes Us® is strengthening traditional school music while adding a contemporary curriculum that embraces new technologies and reflects our diverse student population. Our goal is to eliminate barriers to music education, increase student participation, and enhance the quality of music education for ALL Metro Nashville Public School students.

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Metro Nashville Public Schools is one of the nation's top 50 largest school districts, preparing 88,000 students to excel in higher education, work and life. With the goal of being the first choice for Nashville's families, Metro Schools is committed to providing a high quality education to every student. The district is earning a national reputation for urban school reform, its commitment to social and emotional learning and rising academic achievement. The governing body for Metro Schools is the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education, a nine-member elected body. For more information, visit MNPS.org.

THE NAMM FOUNDATION

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,300 members around the world. 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.