

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Upper Dublin School District Recognized Nationally for Schools' Music Education Efforts

*As One of the Best Communities for Music Education,
District Heralded for Supporting Music Education*



Maple Glen, Pennsylvania, March 18, 2013 - The NAMM Foundation recognizes Upper Dublin School District for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education designation. Upper Dublin School District joins 307 districts across the country to receive the prestigious distinction this year.

In its 14th year, Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) affirms school districts that have demonstrated exceptional efforts toward maintaining music education as part of the schools' core curriculum.

The BCME survey requires districts to answer 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 Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, Kansas, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

"This designation is truly an honor, but not surprising. Our students are the most talented and hardest working kids I've ever had the pleasure of working with. My colleagues, the parents, and the community are all very passionate in their support of music and arts education here in Upper Dublin", said middle school band director Sean J. Kennedy.

"Music is truly a universal language and bridges all academic areas of study. It really enhances a student's school experience and helps foster a true culture of involvement for all kids", said middle school vice principal and athletic director Steve Pickford. "Hopefully this national recognition will help get the word out about all of the great musical opportunities that we have here in the Upper Dublin School District."

As Upper Dublin School District finalizes its 2013–2014 budgets, the announcement of this year's Best Communities for Music Education designation brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of school's core education and music's vital role in student success in school.

The BCME designation is an important part of the NAMM Foundation's efforts to advocate for school-based music education. Numerous studies have demonstrated that learning to play music can boost other academic and social skills, such as math and learning to cooperate in a group. The NAMM-funded Cost of Music Education study found that a comprehensive K–12 music education program cost an average of \$187 per student per year in the sample district.

The Upper Dublin School District is located in Upper Dublin Township in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The district comprises four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. It serves students in grades K-12.

More information:

Complete list of winning school districts:

<http://www.nammfoundation.org/research/best-communities-music-education-0>



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Related article:

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/03/18/4700617/namm-foundation-heralds-2013s.html>

About NAMM Foundation The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the mission of 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. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org. **MEDIA CONTACT:** Elizabeth Lascaze or Jill Knepper for NAMM Public Relations | Phone: 213-623-4200 elascaze@golinharris.com, jknepper@golinharris.com

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