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Blaine County School District Receives National Music Designation Fourth Year in a Row

For the fourth year in a row, the NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants) recognizes the Blaine County School District for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education designation.

The Blaine County School District joins 476 out of the nation's 13,515 districts across the country to receive the prestigious distinction this year. Blaine County is the only school district in Idaho to receive the award.

In its 17th year, the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) affirms school districts that have demonstrated exceptional efforts toward maintaining music education as part of the 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 education 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.

Music education in Blaine County is K-12, with trained and certified music specialists in every school and band, choir and orchestra teachers at the secondary level. Orchestra teacher Rebecca Martin organized the application to NAMM for the Best Communities for Music Education designation.

Superintendent Dr. GwenCarol Holmes said, "The work that our music teachers do everyday to help our students love and enjoy music is greatly appreciated. From Kindergarten to high school, students have the opportunity to participate in music education. This long term investment in music education is evident when you attend an energetic performance at one of our elementary schools, or see the award-winning musicians at our secondary schools."

The announcement of this year's Best Communities for Music Education designation brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of each 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.

For more on the Blaine County School District, go to www.blaineschools.org

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