

Press from:

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Date: April 14, 2022



For Release: TapInto

Submitted by: New Providence School District

Subject: NEW PROVIDENCE MUSIC PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ELEVENTH TIME

New Providence has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. It is the tenth consecutive year, and the eleventh year overall, that New Providence has been recognized.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Susan Kirkland, Department Head of Music Education and Performing Arts, answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and instructional practice shifts during the pandemic. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

“Congratulations to our students, staff and parents for this well-deserved distinction,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David Miceli. “It is a privilege to work in a community that values its music education programs. Ten consecutive years is more than impressive!”

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music: After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school, but also to attend college as well. Everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than in those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to the ability to: perceive speech in a noisy background, pay attention, and keep sounds in memory. Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound: young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Not to mention, social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,400 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.

The New Providence School District considers the Performing Arts to be an essential component of a child's complete education. All students are offered opportunities to create, respond, and perform to the best of their abilities, with high quality, supportive instruction offered from Pre-K through Grade 12. General Music, Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and Drama are available to all students, and auditioned and specialized music and drama ensembles are offered for students seeking additional performance opportunities. Throughout the district, instrumental music ensemble students have the opportunity to study in small lesson groups, for personalized music instruction. At the high school, small group voice lessons are also available, as well as music theory and technical theatre courses.

In addition to promoting the development of technical skills in performance, the Performing Arts provide fertile soil in which students can nurture self-expression, creative thought processes, communication, understanding, and empathy. Through the study and performance of a wide variety of musical and dramatic works, students discover a personal connection to history and other cultures, often resulting in a deep feeling of self-worth and context. As students steadily and consistently work their way through the challenges presented in their performing arts studies, they can connect their success to their own self-discipline, persistence, and commitment. The social and emotional bonds that students form during the collaborative process of rehearsing and performing together are meaningful and often lifelong.

The New Providence Music Education and Performing Arts Department celebrates its enduring success, as a result of the ongoing commitment and partnership between our teachers, students, parents, administration, and community. We invite all of our community members to join us for performances throughout the year to experience what we are so eager to share!

[Please visit the Music and Performing Arts section of the New Providence School District website for more information.](#)