



District 101
Batavia Public Schools
Always Learning. Always Growing.

Batavia Public School District #101 recognized nationally for music education efforts: ranks among the nation's top communities for support of music education.

Batavia, IL. (March 26, 2014) – The NAMM Foundation recognizes the Batavia Public School District for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) designation. District #101 joins 7 other districts from Illinois, and 369 districts across the country to receive the prestigious distinction in 2014.

In its 15th year, Best Communities for Music Education 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.

"It has been evident that music education is important to this district and its students for years." said Lisa Hatfield, elementary band teacher who submitted the application. "Receiving this designation is just further proof that music education is an essential part of our students' growth in Batavia. We are so lucky to have such strong district and community support, and truly earned this recognition together!"

The Best Communities for Music Education program plays an important part of the NAMM Foundation's efforts to make music education part of the core curriculum assuring that the benefits of music making are available to every child. Numerous studies have demonstrated that learning to play music can boost academic and social skills, lower disciplinary action and keep kids in schools.

Batavia Public Schools offers music education from the elementary through high school levels, averaging around 65% of students involved in some musical ensemble throughout each year. Enrollment numbers have been increasing steadily, and with that has come larger performances and community support. Thank you to all of the music educators for enriching the lives of Batavia children every day: Maura Brown, Rob Buckley, Ben Collins, Rita Feuerborn, Lisa Hatfield, Kate Hillman, Mary Jensen, Katie McCann, Chris Owen, Keith Ozsvath, Rachel Pettee, Sherry Reiss, Laura Rexilius, Roxanne Semonchik, Anna Teliszczak, Mona Terpstra, Jamie Vanmersbergen, Christina Virgilio, and Walt Zimmer.

About NAMM Foundation:

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit organization supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its nearly 9,000 members around the world 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.