***Press Release template for SupportMusic Merit Award – For Individual Schools Only***

**[Contact Name]**  
**[Contact School]**  
**[Phone]**  
**[Email]**

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Description automatically generated

**[School Name]** **Receives National Recognition for Music Education Program**

**[City, State]** – **[Date]** – **[City/Town]**’s **[School]** has been honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The SupportMusic Merit Award recognizes individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in providing music access and education to all students.

**[**“**Insert quote from a school official on WHY music education is important to this school and students,” said the School Official. “Insert quote on the impact that receiving this designation will have on the school’s music education program.”]**

To qualify for the SupportMusic Merit Award, **[School]** 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.

**[**“**Optional student/teacher quote about WHY music education is important.”]**

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. In addition, 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.

**[Add information about the school]**

**About The NAMM Foundation**

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its 15,000 global member companies and individual professionals worldwide. 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](http://www.nammfoundation.org).

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