



NEWS RELEASE

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Waterford Kettering Receives National Recognition for Music Education Program *Kettering is one of 1% of Schools in Nation to Receive Distinction*

September 11, 2017, Waterford, Mich. – Waterford Kettering High School has been honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Kettering is one of only 1% of schools in the nation to be recognized with this prestigious award in 2017.

The SupportMusic Merit Award recognizes individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the SupportMusic Merit Award, Kettering administrators 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.

“Our music department is a large part of the positive school culture here at Kettering,” said Michelle Harness, Director of Kettering Choirs. “Receiving this award is an enormous honor and adds to the strength and recognition of our music program and the wonderfully talented students we get to work with every day.”

This award recognizes that Kettering is leading the way with music learning opportunities as outlined in the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation signed into law in December 2015 and awaiting state implementation, designates music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

The NAMM Foundation’s SupportMusic Merit Award brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of curriculum offerings and available to all students. It also highlights music’s vital role in students’ overall success in school and the personal benefits of music making.

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Merlyn Beard, Director of Orchestras at Kettering, added: “Music education is a vital part of our schools today in America. We are a value-added part of a high school student’s overall education and we teach kids the skills that employers want to see in new hires: teamwork, independence, and critical problem-solving skills with a creative approach.”

About the NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,300 members around the world. Its mission is to advance 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.

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