

## **Cazenovia's Music Education Program Receives National Recognition**

Cazenovia named a Best Community for Music for the 3rd time

Cazenovia, NY, March 25, 2016 – Cazenovia Central School has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Cazenovia joins 476 districts across the country in receiving the prestigious award in 2016.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

Districts that have been recognized by the NAMM Foundation are often held up as models for other educators looking to boost their own music education programs.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Cazenovia 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.

This award recognizes that Cazenovia is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the new federal education legislation, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation, signed into law in December 2015, replaces No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing—while leaving behind subject such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of well-rounded education for all children.

As Cazenovia finalizes its 2016-2017 budget, the NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education Award and the implementation of the federal ESSA law bring attention to the importance of keeping music education part of the school's core education for all students. It also highlights music's vital role in students' overall success in school

Community music programs have been drawing increased attention because of a landmark study by Northwestern University brain scientists. These researchers found new links between students in community music programs and academic success in subjects such as reading.

Beyond the Northwestern study, other reports indicate that learning to play music can boost academic and social skills, such as processing math and learning to cooperate in group settings.

A 2015 study, "Striking A Chord" supported by the NAMM Foundation, also outlines the overwhelming desire by teachers and parents for music education opportunities for all children as part of the school curriculum.

Cazenovia Central School offers classroom music for grades K-12 as well as several performing ensembles for band, choral and orchestra students in grades 4-12. Cazenovia's student musicians are active in the Madison County Music Educator's Association All-County Music Festivals as well as the New York State School Music Association Annual Solo and Ensemble Adjudication Festivals, Area All-State Festivals and Conference All-State Festivals. Students from the music department are often featured at sports and community events in and around Cazenovia. In addition to the curricular music offerings, Cazenovia has Jr. High and High School Drama Clubs and an active High School Tri M Music Honor Society. Graduates of Cazenovia High School have successfully pursued a variety of careers in fields such Music Education, Music Business, Composition and Music Therapy.

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. 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).