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# SupportMusic

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## 2017 Merit Award

### **Rosa International Middle School Receives National Recognition for Music Education Program - Third Year In A Row!**

CHERRY HILL, NJ – April 19, 2017 – Cherry Hill's Rosa International Middle School has been honored, for the third year in a row, with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Rosa 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, Rosa 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 Rosa 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.

Rosa International Middle School music teachers Sue Mark, Jack Murtha and Scott Graser share the same vision for the music program: to offer every child a wide array of musical experiences and performance opportunities so as to broaden their understanding of and connection with music. They strive to make a connection with every child, allowing them to explore their talents and express themselves through various musical venues. The Rosa music program proudly boasts enrollment numbers of over 500 in a school of only 820. Their 3 bands, jazz band, 2 orchestras, 3 choruses, 2 a cappella groups, along with an Orff ensemble, recorder ensemble and large musical theater program, offer students their choice of musical experiences. Besides the normal concert series, Rosa also features a piano recital, vocal solo night, small-group chamber night, and multiple community performances throughout the year. "We are incredibly proud of our program and lucky to work with such talented and committed students and an incredibly supportive administration and staff," offers Sue Mark, director of bands and orchestras at Rosa.

As Rosa International finalizes its 2017-2018 budget, The NAMM Foundation's SupportMusic Merit Award and the implementation of the federal ESSA law bring 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.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. A series of landmark studies by scientists and researchers at Northwestern University found a link between students in community music programs and life-long academic success, including higher high school graduation rates and college attendance. In another study from the University, it was discovered that the benefits of early exposure to music education improves how the brain processes and assimilates sounds, a trait that lasts well into adulthood.

Beyond the Northwestern research, other studies have indicated that music education lays the foundation for individual excellence in group settings, creative problem solving and flexibility in work situations, as well as learning how to give and receive constructive criticism to excel.

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.

#### **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](http://www.nammfoundation.org).

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