NEWSWORTHY: Marple Newtown School District Recognized Nationally for Schools’ Music Education Efforts

NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA. (March 22, 2013) – The NAMM Foundation recognizes Marple Newtown School District for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education designation. Marple Newtown joins 307 districts across the country to receive the prestigious distinction this year.

In its 14th year, Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) 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.

As Marple Newtown finalizes its 2013–2014 budgets, the announcement of this year’s Best Communities for Music Education designation brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of the school district’s core education and music’s vital role in student success in school.

The BCME designation is an important part of the NAMM Foundation’s efforts to advocate for school-based music education. Numerous studies have demonstrated that learning to play music can boost other academic and social skills, such as math and learning to cooperate in a group. The NAMM-funded Cost of Music Education study found that a comprehensive K–12 music education program cost an average of $187 per student per year in the sample district.

The Marple Newtown School District will hold a special presentation at the Tiger Foundation Gala of the Arts on Saturday, May 18th. We will celebrate this prestigious accolade and honor the tireless efforts of the teachers, students and parents who have made strengthening music education programs in our schools a priority.