

Music Education

FPS Music Education Programs Earn National Recognition

Fargo Public Schools has received national recognition for its commitment to music education.

Fargo Public Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. FPS joins 738 districts across the country in receiving the prestigious award in 2022. This is the 19th time FPS has received this designation of the 23 years the award has been granted.

The Best Communities Music Education designation is awarded to school 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.

“Music is vital to student’s – and everyone’s – lives,” FPS Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist Ainsley Rentfrow said. “It has incredible effects on people: cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically. Fargo Public Schools has a very strong music program because they recognize the great importance of music education and educating the whole-child. This distinction celebrates the wonderful work of our outstanding and dedicated music educators to bring the gift of music to our students and community.”

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, FPS answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the



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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.

Fargo Public Schools emphasizes music study and involvement to help educate and empower all students to succeed. FPS offers music education opportunities for students of all ages in all of its schools.

All FPS elementary students receive 200 minutes of General Music education over two weeks. Students receive many performing opportunities, which may include grade level performances, “inform-ances,” and concerts. Orchestra is offered beginning in fifth grade. Students may extend their musical experiences through co-curricular activities offered before and after school, including choir, hand chimes, folk dance, and world drumming.

Band, Choir, and Orchestra are offered as elective music courses in our middle and high schools, which may be used to fulfill in Arts credits required for high school graduation. class. Through all secondary music courses, students advance their skills in theory, improvisation, composition, performance, and responding to music. Secondary students enrolled in performing group courses may also participate in co-curricular music groups offered



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outside of the regular school day. These specialized groups include Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, Honor Choir, and other ensembles.

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.

