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### **Princeton is a 2021 Best Communities for Music Education Award Winner**

For the sixth consecutive year, Princeton City School District has been named a Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, students, administrators, parents, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded educational experience.

“I am very proud that our outstanding music community has once again been honored with this national recognition,” said Tom Burton, superintendent. “This is evidence of our district’s commitment to fine arts and specifically music education as we recognize its impact on the social-emotional benefits for the whole child. The Princeton Music Department consistently demonstrates to our students what it means to pursue excellence in all they do and continues to empower each student with skills that lead to life success.”

To qualify for this designation, districts must complete a 50-page application that examines various data about music education within the district, including programs, funding, and enrollment.

“It is gratifying that Princeton is recognized worldwide for the outstanding quality of our music program,” stated Ron Bollmer, principal at Princeton High School. “It is an honor well-deserved and well-earned; our music department continues to go above and beyond in providing an excellent experience for all students. The positive effect on our students is invaluable - not only in the music room, but in all classrooms, as well as life outside of school.”

“To be able to be a Best Community for Music Education six years in a row is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students and their love for their craft,” said Kristen Brown, music department chair, who teaches music and band for grades 6-12.

“The Princeton music program is a family,” explains Brown. “Students are able to find creative outlets to express and inspire themselves while making lifelong friendships and memories. The confidence, problem-solving, perseverance, dedication, and accountability our students learn in our programs that provide the #vikingdiff, which is a lifelong advantage that beings in our elementary schools.”



For more information about the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation or 2021 Best Communities for Music Education designation, please visit <https://www.namm.org>. For more information about the Princeton Music Department, please visit the district website [www.princetonschools.net/princetonmusic](http://www.princetonschools.net/princetonmusic).

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