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SupportMusic

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2018 Merit Award

Springs Valley Jr./Sr. High School Receives National Recognition for Music Education Program

FRENCH LICK, IN - April 17, 2018 – Springs Valley Jr./Sr. High School has been honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

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, Springs Valley 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.

“For almost eighty years, the Springs Valley Community has demonstrated that music education is a vital part of our local educational system. There are so many examples of support for our band program: the band room addition in 2011, the instrument inventory and rental program that has been continued and maintained since 1938, community support for fundraiser projects, and the outstanding band booster organization. These are just a few of the examples of how our community promotes and encourages music education. It is great to see the community and the school corporation receive some well-deserved praise and recognition for their efforts. I congratulate and thank everyone for making our program a success.” – Luke Aylsworth, Springs Valley Schools Director of Bands.

This award recognizes that Springs Valley is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation guides policy implementation in the states and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing - while leaving behind subjects such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

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 supported by The NAMM Foundation, "[Striking A Chord](#)," also outlines the overwhelming desire by teachers and parents for music education opportunities for all children as part of the school curriculum.

The Springs Valley Band Department won the 2017 and 2016 Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Class D State Marching Band Championship. They were also the ISSMA Class D State Marching Band Champion Runner-Up from 2012 – 2015. This year, the band was awarded the ISSMA All Music Award for participating and achieving gold ratings in every ISSMA event available to high school ensembles. The band maintains a robust instrument inventory and rents instruments to students for only \$35 a year.

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.

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