



## **Royse City ISD Music Education Program Receives National Recognition for Fourth Consecutive Year**

Royse City ISD has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Now in its 23rd year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

“Congratulations to our amazing music educators and their leadership on this continued recognition,” said Superintendent Kevin Worthy. “Participation in our music programs is growing exponentially. A quick glance in those classrooms and band halls show a perfect picture of JOY in learning. I’m also appreciative of our supportive school board for approving sound budgets to support these vital programs.”

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Royse City ISD 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.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music: After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school, but also to attend college as well. Everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than in those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to the ability to: perceive speech in a noisy background, pay attention, and keep sounds in memory. Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound: young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Not to mention, social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

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