**Adjust Margins for School Letterhead**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: (*Name of District Official*)**

(***Phone Number)***

***(Email address/Website***)

**(*Name of School Community*) Named Among**

**Best for Music Education in America**

*In a troubling economy that threatens arts education programs,*

*(****name of school community****) joins (****xxx amount****) other New York State School Districts with Honor*

(***Date, Location***) – In direct contrast to today’s troubling economy and the impact it has had on school districts and their music programs, the (***name of school district***) is proud to announce its selection as one of (***xxx amount***) school districts from across New York State recognized as being among the “Best for Music Education in America”.

Sponsored by the NAMM (North American Music Merchants) Foundation the designation recognizes school districts for their strong comprehensive music education programs in grades kindergarten through twelve. NAMM and its music education advocacy efforts work to ensure that all children have access to quality music education programs that encourage lifelong participation in music making.

“Music education has a strong history in (***name of school community***),’’ said (***Principal, Superintendent***). “We are very proud to join the many school districts across New York in earning this designation.”

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.

Mary Luehrsen, NAMM Foundation executive director, adds, “These schools and districts make a strong commitment to music education in the core curriculum supporting its essential value to a well-rounded education for every child. Strong, engaging programs that offer students access to music cannot thrive in a vacuum. The Best Communities designation brings hard-won visibility to music classes, programs and departments that are keeping music education alive in our schools.”

(***Insert School District Boilerplate Statement from PR official or District Office***)

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