

NEWS RELEASE



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GCPS named among best communities for music education

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is among the school districts that the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation named this spring as one of the best communities for music education. In the nonprofit's 13th annual survey, GCPS once again made the organization's national designation. There were 237 districts nationwide that participated in the survey and 176 made the cut as the "Best Communities for Music Education in America."

School systems were chosen based on their music curriculum, programs, and public support. The survey included questions about music education funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, and facilities and support for music programs.

In Gwinnett, approximately 99,000 students were enrolled in music education courses during the 2011-2012 school year. All of Gwinnett's traditional 77 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, and 18 high schools offer music education courses. These may include band, orchestra, general music, jazz band, marching band, chorus, piano, guitar, music technology, music recording, and music theory. In addition, several of the district's special entities such as its charter schools and technical education campuses offer music courses. More than 250 of Gwinnett's educators are teachers certified to teach music.

Established in 1999, The Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) in America survey is a nationwide search for communities who provide access to music education as an essential part of a complete education and exemplify commitment and support for music education. The BCME survey is designed and implemented in collaboration with The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service (www.ku.edu/~ierps/cgi-bin) of Lawrence, Kansas, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

Each district or school receiving the "Best Communities" designation scored in the 80th percentile or higher in the survey's grading process.

The NAMM Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs from the international music products industry.

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