

*Press Release template for SupportMusic Merit Award –
For Springs Valley Jr./Sr. High School*

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SupportMusic

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2017 Merit Award

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

Springs Valley is one of 1% of schools in nation to receive distinction

FRENCH LICK, IN – April 5, 2017 – 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. Springs Valley is one of only 1% of schools in the nation to be recognized with this prestigious award in 2017.

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.

“Again, we are humbled and honored to be recognized by the NAMM Foundation as a SupportMusic school. Our school, community, and administration understand the importance of music education. Our success is due in large part to their continued support and encouragement.” – Luke Aylsworth, Springs Valley Jr./Sr. HS Director of Bands.

This award recognizes that Springs Valley is leading the way with music learning opportunities as outlined in the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation, signed into law in December 2015 and awaiting state implementation, designates music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

As Springs Valley finalizes its 2017-2018 budget, The NAMM Foundation’s SupportMusic Merit Award brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of curriculum offerings and available to all students. It also highlights music’s vital role in students’ overall success in school and the personal benefits of music making.

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

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. Its mission is to advance 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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