



MEDIA CONTACT:
Nicole Noonan
Marketing & Community Coordinator
(920) 788-7900
nnoonan@kimberly.k12.wi.us

425 S. WASHINGTON STREET
COMBINED LOCKS WI 54113

(920) 788-7900
FAX (920) 788-7919

www.kimberly.k12.wi.us

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kimberly Area School District’s Music Education Program Receives National Recognition

District is one of 4% of school districts in nation to receive distinction

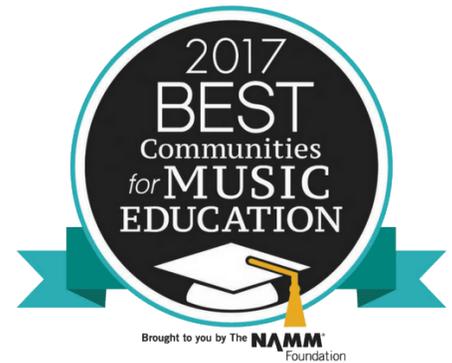
Kimberly, Wis. – April 20, 2017 – The [Kimberly Area School District](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us)

(KASD) has been honored with the Best Communities for Music

Education designation from [The National Association of Music Merchants](http://www.namm.org)

(NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

[Kimberly is one of only 4%](#) of districts across the nation receiving the prestigious award in 2017.



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. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, KASD 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.

“Our District has a long-standing dedication to the arts,” said Craig Hietpas, a band teacher at J.R. Gerritts Middle School.



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“It's great to work in a place where district administrators, teachers and the community value music and the arts as an integral part of education for all students.”

“I am proud of our high quality staff who provide many opportunities for our students to reach their potential in the arts,” said Dr. Robert Mayfield, Superintendent of the Kimberly Area School District. “This national award also honors the commitment our Board of Education, parents and the community place on music education for students of all ages.”

Music education is an important component of the curriculum in the Kimberly Area School District. Students from the elementary to the high school level have a variety of musical opportunities available to them. An inaugural Kimberly Choral Festival held in February 2017 brought together students in 5th through 12th grade choruses, who put on a great show to a packed house at the Lawrence University Memorial Chapel.



The Kimberly High School band and choral programs received impressive recognition at Solo & Ensemble competitions. Students in the middle school bands and choirs perform at many school functions and ceremonies, such as their school's Veteran's Day community program.

Each spring, both Mapleview and Woodland Intermediate Schools hold a Celebration of the Arts event where students share a display of their artwork and their school bands and choruses perform. These are just a few of the many events that go above and beyond the many concerts, pep events, parades and competitions District musicians participate in throughout the year.

This award designation recognizes that the Kimberly Area School District is leading the way with music learning opportunities. The arts are important elements of a well-rounded education that should be made available for all children. Music has a vital role in students' overall success in school and there are also personal benefits of making music.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. In a series of landmark studies by scientists and researchers at Northwestern University a link was found 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 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.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,000 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit www.kimberly.k12.wi.us.