

Press Release
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CAPISTRANO UNIFIED'S MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

NAMM Foundation 2019 Best Communities for Music Education Designation

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA – Capistrano Unified has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

Now in its 20th 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. Designations are given to districts that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and consistent access to music education. This year, 623 districts were recognized nationwide, including 18 within California.

The award recognizes the commitment and dedication of Capistrano Unified to music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children, and signifies that the district is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

“This is a great honor and a testament to our commitment to our students,” said Board of Trustee President Gila Jones. “We are proud of the outstanding efforts of our teachers, staff, administrators, and community leaders who have made music education a critical component of our district curriculum.”

Research studies continue to demonstrate the physical, cognitive and social benefits of music making. Students who are involved in high-quality school-based music programs are more likely to experience academic success, graduate from high school and attend college, while developing many ancillary life-long skills along the way. Social benefits include improved conflict resolution, teamwork skills and learning how to give and receive constructive criticism.

“Our music education program provides an opportunity for students to enrich their artistic capabilities, develop an appreciation of the arts, and encourage the skills and discipline necessary for achieving post-secondary success,” said Superintendent Kirsten Vital.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Capistrano Unified answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

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