

SupportMusic
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2013 Merit Award



Richmond High School Recognized Nationally for Commitment to Music Education

School Ranks Among Nation's Top Schools for Support of Music Education

Richmond, Indiana. (March 19, 2013) – Richmond High School receives the SupportMusic Merit Award from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Richmond High School joins 66 schools across the country to receive the prestigious award this year.

The SupportMusic Merit Award is awarded to individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the SupportMusic Merit Award, [school] 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 Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, Kansas, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

“Richmond High School continues their tradition of emphasizing music as an integral part of our educational program offerings and the many benefits it offers our diverse student body.” said Rae Woolpy, Principal. “We are very proud of our long-standing tradition to the arts and honored to receive the 2013 Support Music Merit Award from the NAMM Foundation, which helps to validate the importance we believe that music plays in the development of our students.”

As Richmond High School finalizes its 2013–2014 budget, the announcement of receiving the NAMM Foundation's SupportMusic Merit Award brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of school's core education for all students and music's vital role in student's success in school.

The SupportMusic Merit Award is an important part of the NAMM Foundation's efforts to advocate for school-based music education. Numerous studies have demonstrated that learning to play music can boost other academic and social skills, such as math and learning to cooperate in a group. The NAMM-funded Cost of Music Education study found that a comprehensive K–12 music education program cost an average of \$187 per student per year in the sample district.

Richmond High School is located in East Central Indiana in the "City of Roses". The high school music department is led by Creative Arts Department Chair and Director of Orchestras Keith Ziolkowski, Band Directors Terry Bettner and Nathan Rigsby, Choir Director Randy Ecker with staff accompanist Joe Bottles, and Dance Instructor Terry Runnels. The program offers four performing choirs, concert band, steel band, percussion ensemble, orchestra, symphonic orchestra, dance performance and music history. In addition, the program has co-curricular programs in marching band, honors orchestra, winter drumline, and a dance team named the Devilettes.

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