



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328-1525

Second Consecutive Year Waterford School District Named Top 100 in America for Music Education

March 30, 2006 Waterford, Mich. – For the second consecutive year, the Waterford School District was named as one of the Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America through a survey conducted by a partnership of leading music and educational organizations and the American Music Conference (AMC). The 2006 roster includes school districts from 31 different states whose commitment to quality music education—measured across a variety of economic, curricular and programmatic criteria—has enabled them to stand out despite the many pressures on music programs across the country.

The Waterford School District's Performing and Visual Arts students in band, choir, and orchestra regularly receive Division I ratings at Michigan School Vocal Music Association and Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association festivals and are often asked to perform at Midwest Music Educators Conference and other venues. The elementary music curriculum is framed in the Discipline-Based Music Education model, incorporating cross-curricular studies with an emphasis on music history, aesthetics, criticism and performance. District-wide events, such as the Elementary and Secondary Vocal Music Festivals, Orchestra Festival, American Roots Music in Education, presented to every eighth grader to honor Black History Month, and summer community musicals are just some of the opportunities available to our students, many with the support of the Waterford Foundation for Public Education, and others in collaboration with the Waterford Cultural Council. The District's new

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performing arts centers offer state-of-the-art venues and allow our students to interact with professional artists and programs, gaining real world connections into the performing arts arenas. This year the District again hosted the MSBOA District IV Band & Orchestra Festival at Mott, and will be hosting the MSBOA State Jazz Festival at Kettering on Wednesday, April 5.

This year's survey was conducted jointly by the country's top organizations devoted to music and learning. The American Music Conference (www.amc-music.org) joined MENC: The National Association for Music Education (www.menc.org), The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (www.mhopus.org), The Music for All Foundation (www.music-for-all.org), The Music Teachers National Association (www.mtna.org), The National School Boards Association (www.nsba.org), Yamaha Corporation of America (www.yamaha.com) and VH1 Save The Music Foundation (www.vh1savethemusic.com) in creating the survey and interpreting the results. Perseus Development Corp. of Braintree, MA (www.perseus.com) donated its time and expertise to implement the web survey and to analyze the data it generated.

Thousands of public school and independent teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders, representing communities in all 50 states, participated in the Web-based survey during January, February and March. Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, enrollment, student-teacher ratios, participation in music classes, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, participation in private music lessons and other factors in their communities' quality of music education. The responses were verified with district officials, and the sponsoring organizations reviewed the data.

Studies by the U.S. Department of Education, The College Entrance Examination Board, and other groups reveal that students who systematically study music achieve higher test scores, particularly in reading and math.

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