QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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QACPS EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

CENTREVILLE, MD - Queen Anne's County Public Schools (QACPS) has been honored with the 2026 Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding support and commitment to music education, marking the district's third year receiving this national recognition.

Now in its 27th year, the BCME program continues to spotlight school districts and individual schools across the United States for their exemplary dedication to music education and their ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access to music learning as part of a well-rounded education. In 2026, more than 1,000 districts and schools nationwide were recognized for outstanding achievement in providing students with access to high-quality music education.

"At its core, music education is about more than content, it's about connection, belonging, and helping students realize they are part of something bigger than themselves," said Kimberly Scully, QACPS Teacher of the Year Finalist and 2025 MMEA Outstanding Music Educator of the Year. "In our classrooms, we're not just building musicians, we're building confidence, identity, and community."

Students across QACPS engage in a wide range of music opportunities, from foundational experiences in elementary classrooms to middle and high school band, chorus, and strings programs, as well as specialized courses that support performance, creativity, and collaboration.

“This recognition reflects the incredible work happening in our classrooms, rehearsal spaces, and performance venues every single day,” said Michael Bell, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts. “Our music programs are built on strong relationships, high expectations, and authentic opportunities for every student to find their voice. When students feel they belong, they engage, and music creates that connection in powerful ways.”

Recipients of the 2026 BCME Award were selected through a comprehensive application and review process that evaluates key indicators including funding, instructional time, participation, facilities, and community support. Applications are independently reviewed and verified by WolfBrown, a leading research and evaluation firm specializing in education and the arts.

QACPS extends a special thank you to its outstanding music educators whose passion and dedication make this recognition possible. The district also recognizes Kimberly Scully for her leadership and contributions in helping compile and support the district’s application for this honor.

QACPS continues to prioritize access to high-quality arts education as part of its broader mission to support student achievement, well-being, and engagement. The district’s continued recognition underscores its belief that the arts are essential, not optional, in preparing students for success in school and beyond.

About The NAMM Foundation:

The NAMM Foundation is the charitable arm of the National Association of Music Merchants, the global trade association for the music products industry. The foundation works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. By investing in bold ideas and innovative solutions, it seeks to build inclusive and thriving musical communities. For more information, visit www.nammfoundation.org.