

Contact: Sue Mark
smark@chclc.org



Rosa International Middle School Receives National Recognition for Fifth Year In A Row

Cherry Hill, New Jersey – Cherry Hill's Rosa International Middle School has been honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for the fifth year in a row.

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

To qualify for the SupportMusic Merit Award, Rosa answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"This designation validates what we already know about Rosa's Music program," states Rosa Principal, Mr. George Guy, "It is fantastic!" Mr. Guy continues, "Rosa's music program boasts a very high participation rate for choral and instrumental music. At Rosa, music is embedded within the culture of the school. There are so many opportunities for students to showcase their talents within the school setting and outside of school. Rosa is truly a unique place which has, and always will, continued to embrace music as art!"

This award recognizes that Rosa is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). The legislation guides policy implementation in the states and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing-while leaving behind subjects such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.

Rosa instrumental director, Mrs. Sue Mark, adds, "The facts and data only reinforce what we already know about how important music is to education, the community and the world. This award just reaffirms that we are on the right track to providing our students with the best music opportunities and experiences possible. We are so lucky to have an incredible music staff at Rosa that shares the same philosophies – give it our best and students first."

For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.