

Brooklake School
Florham Park, NJ 07932
SupportMusic Merit Award Recipient



Brooklake School's Music Education Program Receives National Recognition

Florham Park, NJ – March 26, 2019 – The Brooklake School in Florham Park, NJ has been honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

To qualify for the SupportMusic Merit Award, the school's principal, Dr. Caponegro, answered detailed questions about funding, 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.

"Music education is a critical component of a balanced school environment. Music education supports and promotes social development and enhances academic skills by integrating and stimulating the senses, while at the same time promoting self-expression and teamwork."

- Dr. Caponegro, Brooklake Principal

"This is an incredible honor for our staff, students, and community since we are all a family. Our music teachers, Mr. Hipwell and Mr. Serfozo, have created wonderful, student-centered instructional and extra-curricular programs. A special thank you to the Board of Education for their continued support of the music and arts."

- Dr. Caponegro, Brooklake Principal

This award recognizes that Brooklake School is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation guides 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.

"Playing an instrument increases my knowledge and helps me focus. It's fun learning new music with others and I definitely feel these skills help us in the long run."

- Colin Szonyi, Gr.4 Brooklake Student

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. After two years of music education, research found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school, but also to attend college as well. Everyday listening skills are stronger in musically-trained children than in those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to the ability to perceive speech in a noisy background, pay attention, and keep sounds in memory. Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound; young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Not to mention, social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills and learning how to give and receive constructive criticism.

A 2015 study supported by The NAMM Foundation, "[Striking A Chord](#)", also outlines the overwhelming desire by teachers and parents for music education opportunities for all children as part of the school curriculum.

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,400 members around the world. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

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