



For Immediate Release

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ***Golden Hill School for Creative and Performing Arts*** ***Receives NAMM Foundation Award***

(Fullerton, CA) – Golden Hill School for Creative and Performing Arts is one of 122 schools nationwide and one of 19 in California to receive the Support Music Merit Award (SMMA) from The NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants). The SMMA Award acknowledges an individual school for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Support Music Merit Award recognized individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement to provide music access and education to all students.

The NAMM Foundation is an organization that advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. Golden Hill has a unique model in which every student in TK through 4th grade receives music curriculum from a credentialed music teacher. This instruction occurs weekly for 40 minutes during which students are exposed to a standards based sequential system of learning where they build upon skills learned in previous days, months, and years. Fifth and sixth grade students receive this music instruction two times per week as a grade level. The 5th grade students gain exposure to both band and chorus, participating in each for half a year. The 6th grade students begin to focus on a particular curricular area, either participating in band or chorus for the full school year.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. After two years of music education, researchers have 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. In addition, everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to perceiving speech in a noisy background, paying attention, and keeping sounds in memory. Later in life, individuals who had formalized music instruction 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. Social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and giving and receiving constructive criticism.

Golden Hill School for Creative and Performing Arts Principal, Dr. Neil Anderson shares his passion for arts, “Exposure and participation in the arts isn’t something that should be a discussion. Music education orchestrates skills beyond just producing a melody—nurturing creativity, discipline, and cultural understanding in our students. It's not just about hitting the right notes; it's about composing well-rounded individuals ready to shine in every aspect of life. At Golden Hill, we have embraced this philosophy of integrating the arts into all we do, and understand their importance as it relates to the social-emotional well-being of our students..”

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 11,600 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 21 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, three middle schools, and a distance learning and home school model. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Neil Anderson/Golden Hill School for Creative and Performing Arts Principal at 714/447-7715