

Dear Music Teachers and Aides, Administration, and School Board -

Congratulations! For the second consecutive year Morton CUSD 709 has been selected as a Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. The award acknowledges the entire music program, kindergarten through 12th grade. We are one of 583 school districts, nationwide, to receive the award. Of the 10 school districts in Illinois to receive the distinction, we are one of only two districts below I-80 to receive the award. Other Illinois school districts include:

Aptakisic-Tripp CCSD 102 - Buffalo Grove, IL  
Batavia Public School District #101 - Batavia, IL

District 300 - Algonquin, IL

Indian Prairie School District 204 - Aurora, IL

Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103 - Lincolnshire, IL

Morton Community Unit School District 709 - Morton, IL

Niles School District 71 - Northbrook, IL

Rockridge Community Unit School District #300 - Taylor Ridge, IL

Sunset Ridge School District 29 - Northfield, IL

Yorkville CUSD #115 - Yorkville, IL

Criteria for this award includes the number of music instructional minutes per week at all grade levels, cross-curricular music integration, district-wide course and performance offerings, levels of advanced degrees held by the music faculty, financial support from the school district, as well as community support and involvement. We are fortunate to have a knowledgeable music faculty serving our dedicated **K-12** students backed by a supportive administration and school board.

What I personally believe separates us from other school districts is a community that embraces and supports music education in our schools through parent volunteers and booster clubs, the Morton Fine Arts Association, and the Morton Community Foundation. What we have going on musically in Morton is very unique! With a focus on developing the whole child, our students benefit artistically, socially, emotionally and academically through their involvement in our music programs.

Each of you contributed to the receipt of this award! Thank you for your continued support of our music students, the music curriculum, our music faculty, co- and extra-curricular music offerings, and our students' performance opportunities!

For more information concerning the award, please see the links below.

Patrick

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**Patrick Mainieri**  
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309-284-4085  
[Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center Website](http://www.berthafrankperformingartscenter.com)

