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PRESS RELEASE

“The students in the Bayonne Public Schools from grade 4 through grade 12 have the opportunity for involvement with instrumental music,” according to Joan H. Rosen, Director of Music and Art. Musical instrument demonstrations are scheduled in the schools so that students could see and hear the various instruments of the orchestra. “When students are making a choice as to what instrument they would like to learn, it helps to be able to recognize the instrument. Also, best rule of thumb is for students to select an instrument with consideration of a musical sound that is appealing to them,” commented Mrs. Rosen.

The Board of Education provides free instrumental instruction to the students during the school day. “In most cases it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to provide an instrument for their child with ample time and a place at home to practice,” noted Mrs. Rosen. “This year instrument demonstrations will be provided by the Music Shop of Boonton, Elefante Music of New Providence and K & S Music of Berkeley Heights on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 13 and 14. The music department staff provide students and their families with rental information and places for purchase.” Mrs. Rosen recommends that any parent who has a question about the program call her at 201 858-5883 or get in touch with the instrumental music teacher in their child’s school directly. The district instrumental teachers are: Gavin Davies (Nicholas Oresko School #14 and Bayonne High School); Jonathan Lax (Dr. Walter F. Robinson School #3 and Lincoln Community School #5); Michele Green (Henry E. Harris School #1, Philip G. Vroom School #2, Mary J. Donohoe School #4, and Woodrow Wilson School #10); Margaret Pepe

(Horace Mann School #6); Gary Oberwanowicz (Philip G. Vroom School #2 and John M. Bailey School #12); Andrew Rosciszewski (Nicholas Oresko School #14 and Washington Community School #9); Dana Smerda Mason (Midtown Community School #8 and Bayonne High School); Marisa Yerex (Henry E. Harris School #1 and Mary J. Donohoe School #4); and Serge Puchinsky (Bayonne High School).

“Students will now be able to follow the path of famous musicians such as Midori, Wynton Marsalis and James Galway. They also have the opportunity to choose to embrace music into their lives for the sole purpose of personal enjoyment,” said Mrs. Rosen.

There are currently many studies that have proven the benefit of music education for students. In his monumental work, “Frames of Mind, the Theory of Multiple Intelligence,” Dr. Howard Gardner of Harvard points out that what is known from our own life experiences is that each human is an amalgam of many intelligences. Musical intelligence has been identified as one of these. Other studies substantiate the fact that higher level “critical” thinking skills, such as problem solving and decision making are involved in the study of music. Developing self-esteem, working together for a common goal, and aesthetic education are found to be inherent in the music program as well. Both a University of Sarasota Study and a Texas State University Study found that middle school and high school students who participated in instrumental music performances scored significantly higher than their non-band peers in standardized tests.

“Beginning a connection with music early in a child’s educational journey offers them the tools to continue a life-long connection with the arts, offering many social and professional opportunities,” commented Mrs. Rosen. “Students who study music may be eligible for college scholarships regardless of whether or not they intend to major in music.” “The music community offers networking opportunities throughout life.” George Lucas, filmmaker and founder of George Lucas Educational Foundation, has definite views on the subject in reference to the creativity skills necessary for the 21st century. He states, “If students aren’t taught the language of sounds and

images, shouldn't they be considered as illiterate as if they left college without being able to read or write?"

The entire music department urges all parents and guardians to support the music programs in the schools. The ability to perform and understand music through the practical means of fingering an instrument is specifically cited in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. These State Standards indicate what every New Jersey child is expected to understand, know and be able to do by grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12. "Music can and will make a positive difference in the lives of our children," commented Mrs. Rosen. "Becoming involved with music will give the students a sense of belonging in their individual school and provide our community with citizens who are dedicated, responsible and who appreciate beauty." Mrs. Rosen said. "In essence, a fine music program benefits all of us. Become arts advocates to support a sequential music program in the schools. And please encourage your youngsters to embrace music as part of their school life," stressed Mrs. Rosen.