



OCMEA

District Superintendent,

Since its inception in the 1960's, the Orange County Music Educators' Association has set the standard of excellence for Music Education in the State of New York. This reputation and recognition is not only due to the outstanding music faculty in your district, but also the support that you, as Superintendent of Schools, have shown and the importance you have placed on arts education. With your acknowledgment of music's influence on student's lives, you have helped guarantee that music remains a vital part of their lives and continues to be a part of the lives of thousands of students.

Our high standards are evident in our county performances and representation in NYSSMA Zone 9, state and national conferences. The dedicated teachers in your programs go above and beyond the classroom in influencing their students' lives. Research shows that music has a profound influence on students' learning abilities and helps them in math and the sciences. In fact, studies continue to show that students who participate in music programs outscore their peers on standardized tests and SATs.



Recently, Nicole Regan (MW), Anthony Ravinsky (C) and Bill Greene (G) represented OCMEA as it received the Orange County Arts Council's 2010 Art Award in the category of Arts Organization on November 12, 2010 at the Harness Racing Museum in Goshen. The 2010 Orange County Arts Council Annual Awards recognize living individuals, organizations, and corporations which have made outstanding contributions to the arts in our community. Jane Unhjem, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the Goshen Central School District, nominated the organization for the award. Our nomination letter is enclosed for your review.

The music educators of Orange County affect thousands of students each year. We organize four music festivals each year to provide high-achieving students opportunities to perform with students from the entire county under the direction of highly qualified professionals. Students, in return, bring these experiences and knowledge back to their school's music program. In addition to these experiences, OCMEA runs a very successful student Summer Program and Music Educators' Professional Development Day each year. OCMEA continues to give back to the schools and students by awarding annual music scholarships of over \$7000 and recently sponsoring a coach bus to Rochester for the NYSSMA All-State Conference.

Enclosed please find a program from this year's High School All-County Festival. We have highlighted all of your students and staff who were honored to participate in this year's festival with such extremely talented musicians. We hope to continue to provide these opportunities to your students in the future.

In these hard economic times we would like to thank you for your continued support on behalf of the students. Because of your continued commitment to strong arts programs in your district, we are able to motivate, teach, grow, and shape young musicians in Orange County, continuing to keep to our high standard of excellence.

Nicole C Regan

Nicole Regan
OCMEA President

Tony Ravinsky
OCMEA Vice President