



# Performing Arts

*By Patrick Thiel, FPS Performing Arts Facilitator*

## Music in Our Schools Month

Even though music is in our schools and our lives every single day, March is officially *Music in Our Schools Month!* Fargo Public Schools has an incredibly strong music program. So strong that it has been named one of NAMM's "Best Communities for Music Education" for 19 years.

In FPS' elementary schools, students receive music lessons every day in Kindergarten and first grade. From second grade through fifth grade, students continue to receive the same amount of music education, but in a more concentrated time, meaning they receive longer music instruction every other day.

In the upper elementary grades, students can also participate in co-curricular music and performing arts activities such as orchestra, choir, handchimes, drum ensemble, folk dance, and theatre.

In middle school, students are able to choose between multiple music classes. Middle school students can participate in band, orchestra, and choir. Middle schoolers not only receive large group music instruction, but also more focused, small group instruction.

Students in middle school can also participate in co-curricular performing arts groups such as jazz band, chamber/select band, orchestra, and choir, drama, and musicals.

Once at the high school level, students can continue to participate in choir, band, and orchestra. Jazz band continues in high school, along with other performing arts groups such as jazz choir, show choir, select/chamber ensembles, pep band, drumline, drama, and musicals.

High school students can also take music composition classes to learn about composing and arranging music. Students have the opportunity to audition for state and national honor ensembles and participate in regional solo and ensemble contests.

FPS has consistently had students selected to be in All-State and National level honor ensembles. Congratulations to the following students who were selected to be in the 2023 All-State performing groups:

[2023 All-State Mixed Chorus](#)

[2023 All-State Treble Chorus](#)

[2023 ND All-State Orchestra](#)

[2023 All-State Band](#)

[2023 North Dakota All-State Jazz Band & Jazz Choir](#)

