



Jensen Beach High School Receives National Recognition for Music Education Program

JENSEN BEACH, FL - January 29, 2019 – Jensen Beach High School has been honored with the Advocacy in Action Silver Award for **Outstanding Community Service Project** from Music for All, Inc. for its outstanding commitment to music education.

The Advocacy in Action Award designation is presented to music programs, schools, and communities across the United States that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide access to music education for all students.

To qualify for the Advocacy in Action Award designation, Jensen Beach High School submitted a detailed description of its music program and its project, *Holiday Band Charity Concert*. Submissions were reviewed by a national panel of educators, administrators, community leaders, and business leaders recognized by achievement in Outstanding Community Service.

Research continuously indicates that student engagement in sequential music learning improves brain-function while developing the life-skills of empathy, self-confidence and collaboration. Additionally, students of the arts demonstrate higher attendance, graduations rates, and academic achievement, compared to their non-arts peers.

"We are honored to have been selected as the Silver recipient of this award from Music for All", said Thomas Dougherty, Director of Bands at Jensen Beach High School. "Our entire music department (band and choir) at JBHS has a passion and record of excellence in music ... however, what I am most proud of is our ability to give back and support our Martin County community. Our Holiday Charity Band Concert began in 2007 and since then we have donated over \$10,000 to the Toys for Tots Program and almost 7,500 pounds of food to the House of Hope. We are also extremely proud to know that 7500 pounds of donated food equates to 6,225 healthy well-balanced meals, given to the Martin County residents facing hunger each year. This wonderful concert has become almost a cornerstone of our program and something that I, the students, band families, and school community are extremely proud to be a part of. We look forward to its continued growth in our community and are excited to also know that several other schools (in our area) are doing similar 'giveback' concerts to the residents in our area."

Jensen Beach High School's submission will be part of the Music for All Advocacy in Action website (advocacy.musicforall.org) which is a clearinghouse of practical advocacy examples that can be adapted and replicated by programs nation-wide. By collecting, recognizing and sharing outstanding examples of local advocacy efforts, Music for All ultimately hopes to inspire others across the nation to take action in their own communities.

Jensen Beach High School opened its doors in 2004 and currently enrolls approximately 1400 students. JBHS has been acknowledged as a 'School of Excellence' by the Florida State Board of Education and has also been rated as an 'A' school by the Florida Department of Education.

About Music for All

Music for All is one of the largest and most influential national music education organizations in support of active music making. Music for All is unique in that it combines programming at a national level with arts education advocacy.

Mission: To create, provide and expand positively life-changing experiences through music for all.

We believe that music and arts education is core to a students' well-rounded education and must be available to all students. Music for All is an advocate for music and arts education. Our educational programs support the efforts of instrumental music and choral teachers at the high school and middle school levels, as well as provide positively life-changing experiences for students.

Vision: Music for All will be a catalyst to ensure that every child across America has access and opportunity to participate in active music making in his or her scholastic environment.

For more information about Music for All, please visit www.musicforall.org.