

**Denton Independent School District
Board of Trustees
Certificates of Recognition
October 7, 2008**

DENTON HIGH

DHS Chamber Orchestra selected as Commended Winner

The Denton High Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of David Mairs, was recently selected as a Commended Winner by the National Orchestral Honors Project.

The National Orchestral Honors Project is a national competition, entered by recordings, in which the top quarter entries are selected as National Winners, and the second quarter entries receive Commended Honors.

The adjudicator for the project was Larry Livingston, chair of the conducting department and music director of the Thornton School Orchestras at the University of Southern California.

The DHS orchestra will receive recorded and written comments and suggestions from Mr. Livingston and a CD of the winning performances.

“Many of the finest orchestras in the nation entered the competition and the Mark of Excellence program received entries from 25 states,” said Rick Yancey, director of the National Orchestra Honors Project.

Mr. Yancey stated the Denton High Orchestra is a fine example of orchestras everywhere, and a credit to the Denton Independent School District.

Denton ISD honored for music education

For the second year in a row, the Denton Independent School District has been named as a “Best Community for Music Education in America.” The school district also attained this honor in 2007 and in 2004.

It was one of only 10 in Texas to make the list. This is a great honor for Denton ISD because it is based on providing music as an integral part of every student’s education. The local district was selected for its commitment to school-based music programs.

The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and its American Music Conference division, which both work to promote the benefits of active participation in music and music education, sponsored the survey.

According to the results of the survey, recipients of this distinction cite increased enrollment in and funding for school music programs.

Thousands of teachers, administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders participated in the Web-based survey. The 2008 roster includes school districts from 29 states that are committed to quality music education programs and providing access to music education. The districts were measured across a variety of program support, curricular and programmatic criteria.

David McCullar is the director of fine arts for Denton ISD.