

## **AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Avnoworth's Ronnie Ziccardi Named a Quarterfinalist to Receive a GRAMMY for the 2021 Music Educator Award**

June 10, 2020, Pittsburgh, PA. Avonworth School District music teacher, Ronnie Ziccardi, has been named a quarterfinalist to receive a GRAMMY for the 2021 Music Educator Award. Mr. Ziccardi is one of 216 music educators from 199 cities across the country that have been selected as a quarterfinalist for this incredible recognition. In total, 2,000 initial nominations were submitted.

The Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools. A joint partnership and presentation of the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum, the recipient will be recognized during GRAMMY Week 2021.

Mr. Ziccardi stated, "I'm extremely grateful for the constant support our community has demonstrated on ensuring music is an integral part of each student's education. I'm excited to be a quarterfinalist for this award representing our amazing Avonworth School District, community, and students."

One recipient will be selected from ten finalists and recognized for their remarkable impact on students' lives. The eighth annual honoree will be flown to Los Angeles to attend the 63rd Annual GRAMMY Awards and a range of GRAMMY Week events. The nine additional finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all ten finalists will receive matching grants.

Mr. Ziccardi is very deserving of this recognition as he has made a significant contribution to the resurgence of the Avonworth School District music program.

Avonworth Superintendent Dr. Tom Ralston stated, "I am very proud of Mr. Ziccardi and feel that he is so worthy of being named a 2021 Grammy Music Educator Award quarterfinalist. He has been an integral part of our program, inspiring our young students to develop a deep love of music that impacts their minds, hearts, and souls."

Semifinalists for the 2021 Music Educator Award GRAMMY will be announced in September.

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