



Grammy award is music to Fremd's ears

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Strike up the band: Fremd High School has something to celebrate.

For the second time in three years, the Palatine school was one of 21 nationwide to be honored by the Grammy Foundation as a Grammy Signature School for excellence in music.

"It was a true 'WOOHOO' moment for me," said David Lang, Fremd's music department chair. "I am that ecstatic about it."

The annual award recognizes public high schools for outstanding commitment to music education. The school will get a \$1,000 grant toward its music program.

"This validates that we are on the right track," said Lang, whose department is growing so much District 211 built an addition onto Fremd.

Lang credits the music department's staff for helping achieve the honor.

"They are adamant about challenging these kids to their max," Lang said.

To begin the selection process, last fall the Grammy Foundation mailed applications to thousands of high schools. Those schools were then whittled to a final 100, which were asked to submit additional information, such as recordings of school concerts as well as sample concert programs.

Lang said he spent about 24 hours over three days compiling the recordings for the application.

"I am so proud of my colleagues and I am so proud of these kids; they earned it," Lang said.

In 2005, Fremd and Hersey high schools both earned the honor, with Schaumburg High School being recognized in 2004.

For details on the Grammy Foundation and the Signature School programs, visit www.grammyintheschools.com.