



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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21ST CENTURY MUSIC EDUCATION COMING TO THE HOLMDEL SCHOOLS

HOLMDEL (March 31, 2017) – Thanks to a generous gift from the Holmdel Foundation for Educational Excellence, the school district's 7th – 12th grade complex will soon be home to a state-of-the-art *Music Innovation Lab*.

Beginning in September, the *Music Innovation Lab* will be home to the high school's sequence of Music Technology courses through which students develop skills in using recording software and Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) applications. The lab will allow students in 8th grade the opportunity to get a jump start on learning about Music Technology through an elective course that the district has been planning on implementing.

William R. Satz School Music teacher Dana Donovan couldn't be more excited about this innovative development. "Through Music Technology our students will have the opportunity to develop critical 21st Century Skills that will help promote personal and professional success," she said.

"While our teachers have steadily integrated technology into the study of music over the last several years, this new 'home' for musical innovation is certain to advance our program to a level that not many other districts can provide," said Superintendent Dr. Robert McGarry. "We are so grateful to the HFEE for helping us to provide this opportunity for our students," he added. Referencing the Arts Education Evaluation conducted by the district in 2015, Dr. McGarry said that this gift allows the district to address several priorities identified through this evaluation, including:

- Equipment, particularly technology dedicated for Art and Music in Grades 7-12.
- Technology-based Art and Music courses in Grades 7-12.
- An elective program at Satz with choices in all four Arts areas or at a minimum, the return of 8th Grade Music (Music Technology)

Board President Joseph Hammer indicated that the project aligns well with the Holmdel 2020 Initiative vision of "creating a technology rich complex that will inspire and promote innovation at every turn." The Board recently submitted a set of projects to the New Jersey Department of Education for consideration in an effort to realize that vision with a September referendum vote.