

Transcript of trophy presentation to Mr. Snyder.....

Last year in June 2018, former Penncrest Band member and Penncrest Class of 2016 graduate Olivia Stallings had an idea. She had heard that the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum sponsors a Music Educator Award - which recognizes a music teacher who makes a lasting impact on students and music education. She felt strongly that Mr. Snyder was deserving of this award and nominated him. She returned to Penncrest to interview band members and create the video necessary for the nomination. These students gave testimony as to how Mr. Snyder influenced them and why they felt he was a deserving candidate for the award.

In total, over 2,800 music teachers from across the United States were nominated. As the months passed, we would learn that Mr. Snyder qualified as a quarter-finalist, then semi-finalist, then 1 of only 10 finalist. It is an achievement that was deservedly celebrated throughout the school district.

When I asked Olivia why she took the time to honor someone who was no longer a part of her life, she answered "Mr. Snyder had such a positive impact on me throughout high school, and many of the lessons I learned from him still apply to my life today. In high school, I often felt as if people didn't see the potential I possessed, but Mr. Snyder saw it and worked to cultivate it. The world needs more teachers like Mr. Snyder - teachers who want to see you succeed and go beyond what you think you're capable of".

Mr. Snyder - you may not have been at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday, but you are on this stage, at Penncrest High School, directing our band....and for that we are grateful. On behalf of Penncrest Band and Colorguard members (past and present), and the Band Parents Association - please accept this trophy recognizing you as a 2019 Grammy Music Educator Award Finalist.