



East Providence High School Band
2000 Pawtucket Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914
(401) 425-7806

July 6, 2008

Dear Families of 9th Grade Band Students,

As you may already be aware, all students in Rhode Island must demonstrate proficiency in the arts in order to graduate from high school. Today, the 9th grade class was introduced to the East Providence School Department Fine Arts Proficiency Handbook; a copy of which will be sent home before week's end (and will also be available for download from our band website). Please review this handbook together carefully, and be certain to contact us next week if you have any questions or concerns.

Initially, these requirements may seem overwhelming, but please do not panic! As the Music Department, we are committed to offering the finest music education to our students, and have already been accomplishing much of the required work. In short, we are continuing the teaching and learning process according to the National Standards as we have always done; however, we must now carefully and formally document student work in compliance with state requirements.

Here in the East Providence High School Instrumental Music Department, many students already have portfolios in existence that contain bodies of evidence documenting work dating back to 8th grade. It is important to realize that developing proficiency is a process, one in which students continue to grow and demonstrate understanding. You may find that your child may already be able to demonstrate proficiency in some areas, but needs more time to grow in other areas throughout high school. We are here to assist you, but will need your help to ensure that your child takes an active role in their arts proficiency plan.

Again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Musically yours,

Richard M. Vars
Director of Music

Jason M. Silveira
Assistant Director of Bands
