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Dear Band Parent/Guardian:

Starting in September, 2008, all students in Rhode Island will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the Arts in order to graduate from high school. Today, the band classes were introduced to the East Providence School Department Fine Arts Proficiency Handbook. A copy of this handbook is also available for download from our band website. Please review this handbook together carefully, and be certain to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Initially, these requirements may cause a sense of overwhelming, but please do not panic. The East Providence Department of Music is committed to offering the finest music education to our students, and we have already been accomplishing much of the required work. In short, we are continuing the teaching and learning process according to the standards as we have before, only now, we must carefully and formally document student work in order to be in compliance with state requirements.

Here in the Riverside Middle School Bands, students already have portfolios in existence that contain bodies of evidence documenting work dating back to 6th grade or their initial time of enrollment in the program. It is important to realize that developing proficiency is a process, one in which students will continue to grow and demonstrate understanding. You may find that your student may already be able to demonstrate proficiency in some areas, but needs more time to grow in other areas during high school. We are here to assist you, but we will also need your help in ensuring that your child stays on top of their Arts Proficiency plan.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robin Murphy
Director of Bands