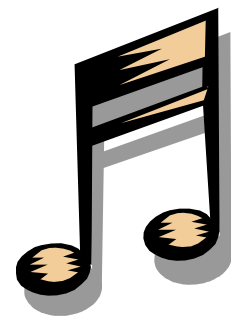
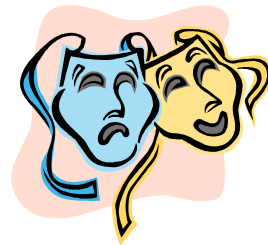


East Providence School
Department
*Fine Arts Proficiency
Handbook*



Achieving Proficiency in the Fine Arts

*“If you are looking for something to be brave about, consider Fine Arts.”
- Robert Frost*

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I. Overview

Proficient¹ [pruh-fish-uh nt]:

- *Adjective*: well-advanced or competent in any art, occupation, or branch of knowledge; skilled
- *Noun*: an expert.
- *Synonyms*: adept; competent; experienced; accomplished; able; finished.

This vocabulary word takes on a special significance starting with the Class of 2008 because this class will be the first required by the Rhode Island Board of Regents to demonstrate proficiency in the Arts through their Digital Graduation Portfolio. *That does NOT mean simply taking a one year course in Art or Music. It means showing you are skilled or competent in an art form* such as Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Dance, or combined Fine Arts.

Some of you may already have achieved proficiency. You may be talented musician, dancer, photographer, or you may have been performing in community theatre for years. Others however, may look at this requirement with concern.

Don't worry. You have four years to meet this requirement, and there are many people who will be there to help you along the way. The first source of help is this handbook. It is designed to give you some ideas and some strategies for your demonstration of proficiency in the Arts. At East Providence High School, Fine Arts "proficiency" will be determined by examining the evidence students complete in the Digital Graduation Portfolio.

II. Timeline for Planning (Everyone needs a schedule.)

Grade 8:

- Fine Arts Proficiency Handbooks distributed.
- Students consider options for proficiency.
- Based on student experiences, some may demonstrate proficiency in grade 9.

Grade 9: (Beginning)

- Students decide which Fine Arts in which they will show proficiency.
- Potential outside resources are identified.
- Students may begin coursework and acquire evidence of proficiency to upload to their Digital Graduation Portfolio.

Grade 10: (Emerging)

- Students may continue course work and/or work with outside resources.
- Many students may achieve proficiency by the end of grade 10.

Grade 11-12: (Proficient)

- Remaining work in Fine Arts Proficiency must be completed by the end of first semester of grade 12.
- All students are required to achieve proficiency before graduation as evidenced through their Digital Graduation Portfolio.
- Some students may achieve an advanced level of proficiency by graduation.

¹ "proficient." *Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1)*. Random House, Inc. 15 Mar. 2008. <Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/proficient>>.

III. What Does Proficiency Look Like?

There is no “one size fits all” model for achieving proficiency. It will vary from student to student, and it will be personalized. Some students may opt to focus on one specific art form because they have been taking lessons for many years in a field such as music. Others, however, may choose to explore more than one area. For example, a student may sing in a community chorus but they also design program covers for a children’s theatre group. Still, others may feel most comfortable designing lighting for a stage production. You should spend some time thinking about what you already do and how you could expand on that to design a plan for achieving proficiency. Remember, you have four years to accomplish this.

So, are there any specific requirements you have to meet?

The short answer is yes! While the plan itself affords you lots of opportunities to focus on individual interests, it does require structure so your teachers can better understand how you plan to meet this graduation requirement.

1. First, you need to decide which of the Fine Arts you wish to show proficiency in: Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Dance or combined Fine Arts Proficiency (CFAP). (Note that East Providence High School presently does not offer any course work for Theater or Dance at this time.)
2. Second, you must pass the Proficiency Rubric. This requirement is an especially important component to consider as you design your plan.
 - You may focus on one specific art form, (music, visual arts, theatre or dance) and include evidence in two of three components (creating, performing, and responding).
 - OR -
 - You may earn a Combined Fine Arts Proficiency (CFAP). Instead of focusing on one area, you could explore two or more art forms. A six point minimum still applies, but in this instance, students may earn the points in different Fine Art areas.
3. Third, you will need to make certain you have included the following components in your plan:
 - Creating - All Fine Art subjects include these components.
 - Responding - All Fine Arts subjects include these components.
 - Performing - Only Music, Dance and Theatre include these components.

A. Music

“Where words fail, music speaks.” - Hans Christian Anderson

If you wish to use Music to demonstrate proficiency, you will need to demonstrate through portfolio of evidence, achievement from at least two of the following categories.

- Creating
- Responding
- Performing:

If you are using music alone to demonstrate proficiency, one of the two categories **MUST** be performing.

IMPORTANT: Proficiency must be demonstrated by a body of evidence, not a single assignment or activity.

Remember, these are just suggested activities to show you what a body of evidence might look like, and you have four years to accomplish this. All evidence needs to be uploaded to your Digital Graduation Portfolio.

Creating:

SUGGESTED EVIDENCE:

A proficiency portfolio is to be composed of any combination of the following bodies of evidence:

- Original musical scores (electronic or traditional),
- Recordings with documentation
- Examples of improvisation (See performance evidence.)

Responding:

SUGGESTED EVIDENCE:

A proficiency portfolio is to be composed of any combination of the following bodies of evidence:

- Concert reviews and evaluations
- Self-critiques
- Journals
- Results of formal assessments
- Oral presentations.

Performing:

SUGGESTED EVIDENCE:

A proficiency portfolio is to be composed of any combination of the following:

- Video Tape or Documented Audio Tape of performances
- Printed programs
- Live performance
- Adjudication documentation (i.e. All State audition, Solo/Ensemble festival form)

B. Visual Arts

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see” - Edgar Degas

If you wish to use the Visual Arts to demonstrate proficiency, you will need to produce a portfolio of evidence demonstrating achievement in the following two areas:

- Creating
- Responding

IMPORTANT: Proficiency must be demonstrated by a body of evidence, not a single assignment or activity. All evidence needs to be uploaded to your Digital Graduation Portfolio.

Remember, these are just suggested activities to show you what a body of evidence might look like, and you have four years to accomplish this.

Creating:

SUGGESTED EVIDENCE:

A proficiency portfolio is to be composed of any combination of the following:

- Two-dimensional artwork, such as drawing, painting, digital images, printmaking, mixed media and photography
- Digital video/imaging (on student or district provided technology)
- Three-dimensional artwork such as sculpture and ceramics (or photographic documentation of art work from various angles)

The creating portfolio may contain a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twelve (12) finished art works that include the following components:

- Minimum of three drawings with two from direct observation
- Minimum of three works that employ effective use of color
- Minimum of two works in three-dimensions

Responding:

SUGGESTED EVIDENCE:

A proficiency portfolio is to be composed of the following:

- Written documentation such as critique of own or others’ work, reflection, and analysis and personal interpretation of work of art.

C. Dance or Theatre

“Dance is music made visible.” - George Balanchine

If you wish to use Dance or Theater to demonstrate proficiency, you must achieve proficiency in two of the following three areas.

- Creating
- Responding
- Performing

IMPORTANT: Proficiency must be demonstrated by a body of evidence, not a single assignment or activity. All evidence needs to be uploaded to your Digital Graduation Portfolio.

Remember, these are just suggested activities to show you what a body of evidence might look like, and you have four years to accomplish this.

Since coursework in Dance and Theatre is not currently offered at East Providence High School, all of your evidence must be gathered from outside sources. You will need to consult with your Advisor, Guidance Counselor and the Fine Arts Directors of East Providence High School to pursue this option.

D. Combined Fine Arts Proficiency

If students wish to demonstrate a Combined Fine Arts Proficiency, they must present evidence in the following three areas:

- Creating
- Responding
- Performing

The student may submit evidence from two or more of the Fine Arts areas. Students wishing to pursue this option must consult with their Fine Arts Teachers, their Advisor, and their Guidance Counselor.

IV. Course Selections

It is important to remember that proficiency has to be demonstrated by a body of evidence not a single assignment or activity. Since all East Providence students have had substantial experiences in Music and Visual Arts throughout grades K-8, they have already developed skills in creating, responding, and performing. Coursework in the Fine Arts in high school is one way to take your current skills and develop them to a proficient level. Coursework will give you an opportunity to accumulate some of your proficiency points. The following list gives you an idea of what courses are available at East Providence High School to help you design your proficiency plan. Descriptions of the courses can be found in your Program of Studies.

Music Courses:

- Concert Band* – 9th grade only
- Symphonic Band*
- Wind Ensemble*
- Freshman Chorus – 9th grade only
- The Meistersingers
- Choraleers
- Music Theory
- Music History (*currently not available*)
- Guitar Lab
- Piano/Keyboard Lab

*ALL students enrolled in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and/or Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the East Providence High School Marching Band. Students will be exempt from the Marching Band ONLY if they are a member of a school sponsored Fall sport.

Visual Art Courses:

- Art 9 – 9th grade only
- Art 1
- Architecture and Sculpture
- Ceramics and Sculpture
- Drawing and Painting

V. Fine Arts Teachers

There will likely come a time when you feel completely confused by all of this. Don't worry. When you need someone to help you figure out your next step, you can contact any one of the following people:

Music:

- Ms. Maryann Lasorsa - Choral Director
- Mr. Jason Silveira - Director of Bands
- Mr. Richard Vars - Director of Bands, Supervisor of Music K-12

Visual Arts:

- Mr. Santo DiGati
- Mr. Michael Enos
- Ms. Linda Manni
- Ms. Anne Rourke