

PARKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Todd L. Riddleberger, Director

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Dear Friends, Family, Alumni, and Community Members,

By the time you read this, the students in the Parkside Band will have already been informed of the fact that I will be leaving the band program at the conclusion of this school year. It is with much conflict that I have to come to this decision and I feel that I need to clarify my reasoning to those of you have been so committed to the success of our organization in recent years...

First of all, I am not at liberty to discuss what I'll be doing in the fall as a matter of professional courtesy to the other individuals involved, so please do not ask, but I CAN tell you that the primary reason for my departure is that I no longer feel that I am able to commit the time, physical energy and emotional energy that are required to do the job well. I will be the first person to acknowledge that I am the one who has initiated many of the ensembles, projects, and programs that now require so much time and energy to sustain, but rather than "downsize" the organization for personal reasons, I have decided to give someone else the opportunity to introduce a new energy and fresh prospective that can assure the continued growth and development of the program.

I am extremely fortunate to have been surrounded by a loving family and close friends for many years who have understood that I wanted to be a high school band director since I was a 9th grader at Dover High School in 1990. Since I accepted this position in the summer of 1998, I have literally defined my entire existence by the quality of the music instruction being offered in the band and the performance level achieved by the students involved. For the last nine years, those closest to me have known not to bother calling my home or inviting me to an event between August and mid-November (for obvious reasons) and I am no longer able to make such sacrifices in pursuit of discovering what these talented students are capable of achieving. I want to make sure that someone is here for the kids whose focus will be on their organization and the quality of the music they are able to produce. Meanwhile, my new position will allow me to pursue my passion for music and teaching while assuring that I will have the time that I need (and want) to devote to those who are so important to me outside of my profession.

It has been, and continues to be, my distinct pleasure to serve as Director of Bands at Parkside High School. As the end of the school year approaches, I would only request that you plan on attending and enjoying our concerts in May...

Jazz Band Concert – May 10th, 2007
Spring Band Concert – May 15th, 2007

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Sincerely,
Todd L. Riddleberger
Director of Bands, Parkside High School