

School of Performing Arts  
Division of Music and Theatre/Dance



5788 Class of 1944 Hall  
Orono, Maine 04469-5788  
Tel: 207-581-4700  
Fax: 207-581-4701  
umaine.edu/spa

Monday, April 11, 2022

To Ms. Hailey Francoeur and the students, staff, parents, and administrators of the Sanford High School Band,

I wanted to send a letter to thank you for your evident commitment to performing music at the highest levels that you can. Your pursuit of excellence in your musical endeavors was a joy to witness when I had the opportunity to spend some time listening to, working with, and learning from you. You have much of which to be proud!

One of the real joys of being a music professor is that I get the opportunity to work with teachers all over our state, region, and country. I can say in no uncertain terms that the musical leadership in the Sanford High School band is exemplary, and Ms. Francoeur has gone well above and beyond the typical "call of duty" as the instructor. I also want to take a moment to mention the hard work and dedication of the students in the band. They work exceedingly hard to meet their shared goals for performance and learning. Their rehearsal was a joy to experience, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the group.

Of course, the success of the band is reflective of all of you: The parent or guardian who values music education and allows for practice to be done during and outside of the school day, the administrator that supports the music program in times of tight budgets and little state support, and especially the **STUDENTS** who have clearly developed a love not only for music but for learning itself.

Music is one of the few academic pursuits inextricably tied to the theoretical knowledge attained through study and the immediate application of that knowledge through practice and performance. It takes a gifted and passionate teacher and staff to serve in perfect harmony with the program's students, parents, and administrators to make excellent music happen. That is clearly happening for the Sanford High School band students.

To the students: Although I do not know you as well as I would like yet (I'd visit every day if I could!), I want you to know how delighted I am to have witnessed your hard work and dedication. You have chosen to be among an elite few who pursue the act of making music at the very highest levels at your age. Your continued commitment to playing and improving will serve you well as you get older, whether you choose music as your vocation or your avocation. Keep your strong work ethic and sense of pride. Your strength of character was on full display during our shared rehearsal, and you give me high hopes for our future as musicians in the state of Maine!

My sincere congratulations to you! I hope that I get to continue to watch the musical magic happening under the direction of Ms. Francoeur. Parents, students, administrators, and community members: you have much of which to be proud! I'm excited to see the continued growth and development of the band program under Ms. Francoeur's leadership as she guides the program forward post-pandemic. You have a very bright future, indeed!

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Edelman', with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the page.

Philip B. Edelman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Music Education  
University of Maine  
School of Performing Arts  
(207) 581-1257  
[Philip.Edelman@maine.edu](mailto:Philip.Edelman@maine.edu)