



Wickford Middle School

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**Challenging
Student
Excellence**

November 2017

Dear Wickford Middle School Community:

At the end of October, the Rhode Island Department of Education released the 2017 School Report Cards. This included recognizing 28 commended schools who were deemed the highest performing across the state. We're very happy to say that Wickford Middle School was one of these 28 commended schools for the 2016-17 year. We want to take this opportunity to thank several people for making this achievement possible.

The first person we'd like to thank is our former principal, Mr. Terry Merkel. Mr. Merkel retired this past June after serving as assistant principal and principal at WMS for over 20 years. Receiving commended status during his final year is a testament to the hard work and dedication Mr. Merkel put in during his tenure at Wickford. He was able to establish a culture of success and excellence that we look to continue for years to come.

While there are many factors that go into determining a commended school, one of the most important is student test scores on various standardized assessments. Our students received the second highest scores of any middle school in the state on last year's PARCC ELA, PARCC Math, and NECAP Science assessments. The students at Wickford Middle School are driven, hardworking, and conscientious. We're reminded of this each day we come to school and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. Of course, those achievements wouldn't be possible without a strong support system from our entire community, including all of our parents and families. Thank you for creating an environment at home that allows your students to excel, and thank you for working with the WMS staff to ensure all of our students receive the best possible education.

Last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank the staff at Wickford Middle School. The time, energy, and dedication you put into your daily work is something to be admired. We would not be a commended school without your exemplary teaching inside the classroom and your support and guidance each day. Our students are lucky to have you and we're lucky to work with such a wonderful group of educators.

As we move ahead with the 2017-18 school year, we look forward to continuing the tradition of success and achievement that has been present at Wickford for so long. This accomplishment is something the entire Wickford Middle School community can be proud of. Thank you for all of your hard work and support. Go Wildcats!

Sincerely,

Brian Lally & Alison Palladino