

Norman High School Bands

Jim Meiller, Director of Instrumental Music (Bands & Orchestras)

Joel Deardorf, Assistant Band Director (Bands, Jazz Band)

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Dear 8th Grade Band students and parents,

It is a pleasure to write to you from the Norman High School Bands. We have had an exciting year so far and we are looking forward to year's band.

We have an exciting program here at Norman High. We offer as many musical activities for our students as our schedules allow. We have Marching Band, Concert Band (Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band), Jazz Band, and String and Full Orchestras. In addition, the students have the opportunity to participate in Pit Orchestra, large and small ensembles and solos as the year progresses. Information about the Full Orchestra and Jazz Band will be available in the coming weeks.

Marching Band

The year begins with marching band. This group performs at home and some away football games. Marching band competitions will be a part of the fall schedule. We have generally participated in two Saturday clinic/contests and the Regional Marching Contest, held during school. For the students who haven't marched before, this can be a new and exciting experience. I strongly encourage you to give it a try! We have students who have gone on to university marching bands and had the chance to travel and perform on national television for major football games and parades. At least two former NHS students are or have been drum majors in their college bands!

Travel

The bands participate in competitions, clinics, parades, talent shows, workshops and more. We try to travel with the band each year. Longer, overnight trips alternate yearly with day trips to Dallas. In the last several years, bands from Norman High have performed at the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio and The Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. We have also played at venues in Houston, San Diego, Chicago and Orlando among other places. On these trips we have performed, but also taken in the sights and sounds of the cities. For example, Norman High Band members have heard the Chicago Symphony, been to Disney World, the Sears Tower, San Diego Zoo, Houston Opera and seen professional baseball and basketball games in many cities. We anticipate a big trip for next year!

Enrollment

Your child has the opportunity to embark on many new experiences as a member of the Norman High School Band. The first step to becoming a member is to enroll in band at NHS. I hope that when you filled out your enrollment card, you listed band as your first choice of electives. That way you are assured of getting band on your schedule. If we need to make changes, I'll be glad to help – just drop me a line.

Web Site

Our main means of communication is the web site <www.nhsband.net>. There you will find a calendar of events that is being developed for next year's activities. Simply click on the calendar link at the top of the page. We have a band camp that begins our year in August, so please check the calendar on the web page for those dates. On the calendar you will find some of the dates for next year such as band camp, football games as well as many concert dates. The rest of the year will fill in during the next several months. Please check back often to get a head start on the fall.

We are looking forward to having your student in the Norman High Band! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Meiller or Mr. Deardorf at Norman High (366-5812) or at the addresses below.

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