



On behalf of the Norman High Band Association (NHBA), I would like to welcome you to the wonderful world of high school band! My name is Barbara Craig, and I am the 2011-2012 President of NHBA. My son Jonathan is an incoming sophomore clarinet player. Having already watched a daughter go through the Norman High Band program for four years, and now having seen my son's first year, my respect for Mr. Meiller and Mr. Deardorf continues to grow. They run a classy program, instill discipline and respect in their students, and challenge them to accomplish great things as musicians. They also have a lot of fun! I couldn't be more pleased to have my children involved in the NHS Bands.

As part of Norman High School's superior music program, your child can look forward to a rollercoaster ride of experiences, starting with: surviving the heat of band camp and learning how to march (again); running to the football field just after 7 a.m. each school day to practice show music and sets in dew-soaked grass; dancing in the stands to the intoxicating cadences of the drumline while watching Norman High's and Norman North's football teams battle at Owen Field; and that's just the first four weeks! As a parent, there are many opportunities for you to enjoy the ride with your child but also help in ways that truly make this excellent program possible.

Norman High Band Association is the parent support group for the Norman High School Band Program. In association with the Band Directors, NHBA helps coordinate activities and fundraisers to enhance the budget, build relationships and help the bands. As part of this mailing you will find an orange Band Parent Primer that is full of information about the NHS Band program, NHBA and its activities, and the multiple ways you as a parent can be involved. You will also find a membership form and sign-up sheet. Read the brochure, look at the membership form, and begin to consider how you would like to get involved with NHBA and support the bands.

During the school year, all parents are encouraged to attend NHBA's monthly meetings. This summer, in order to answer your questions, NHBA is hosting a series of gatherings for parents during rehearsals and Band Camp. We greatly enjoyed meeting the parents of some of our new band members during the June 20 rehearsal. Our next gathering will be Monday night, July 11, in the small band room during the 6:30-8:30 rehearsal. We hope ALL band parents will stop by to enjoy a cold drink, say hello, meet other band parents, and join NHBA. We will also start signing up helpers for August's Band Camp and upcoming fundraisers like Taste of Norman and OU Concessions. (Got a gas grill you can load up and loan us for a day or two during band camp? Want to play grill master for about 120 grateful band camp participants? Come talk to us Monday night, July 11!)

NHBA's largest fundraiser takes place in the stands above OU's Owen Field during football season. The Norman High Band Association staffs and works a concession stand

at the University of Oklahoma Memorial Stadium on home football Saturdays. This year we will be working in a new venue for us, The Gridiron Grill, located on the 5th level of the East Side stands. Fifteen volunteers are needed for each game. Volunteers must obtain a food handler's card at the Cleveland County Health Department or during a specially scheduled class at OU's Lloyd Noble Center on Saturday, August 20 at 3 p.m. (More information to come about this fundraiser in a mid-July mailing.) The money earned is used to fund band activities and, in past years, has purchased special items including an extensive projector system with a big screen as well as much-needed percussion equipment. OU Concessions is the most important fundraiser NHBA does for the band program. Your participation is critical!

Lastly, please consider being an NHBA officer or committee chairperson. We currently have an opening for Vice President and for the following committee chairs: Taste of Norman, Corporate Sponsors, Ways and Means (fundraising), Communications, and Banquet (Band and Orchestra—this is orchestra's year to plan the banquet, so it would be a great year to sign on and learn!). Elections and appointments are done in the spring for the next school year or as needed. Obviously we need several gifted parents to come help us right away as we organize people to work at Taste of Norman Sept. 1. Or share your communications expertise with us as we consider starting our own webpage or perhaps a Facebook group. You can contact me at dbcraig85@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as an officer or committee chairperson. The success of the band depends on the active involvement of NHBA.

Once again, welcome! The band program at Norman High is the best (ask the Directors or last year's band members about their historic awards). I look forward to meeting all of you and helping our young people achieve musical success!

Barbara Craig
NHBA President

P.S. Mr.Meiller asked me to correct a mistake in his band camp letter. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 24. No marching that day, but students are to bring their instruments ready to play music.