



## North High School Saxon Regiment 2009-2010

Dear 2009-2010 Saxon Regiment Members and Families:

First and foremost we would like to welcome our new members – we hope you are as excited about joining the Saxon Regiment family as we are to have you! As we make our plans for next school year there are some responsibilities we want you to know about and some details we need to cover so the school year transition can proceed as smoothly as possible.

### Summer Band Camp

Band Camp is where it all begins. We learn how to march, learn a bunch of “Pep Music” for the football games, and start learning our Field Show which we perform at home games during half time, and at Saturday competitions during the Fall marching season. Right now set aside those Friday nights and Saturdays through Thanksgiving (and beyond if the football team does well)!! Some of the music will be made available to students throughout the summer, prior to the start of Band Camp. Our goal is to start the school year with most of the field show learned so we can take the complete show to our first competition at El Camino College, the first weekend of October! Last year we performed better with more complex drill (field movement) than ever, and this year we are excited to continue improving our playing and marching technique. In order for us to reach our goals the field show music and drill (movement) must be written before Band Camp begins, which can not be done if we do not have a complete Regiment roster. For this reason it is imperative that each member of the Regiment **register** for and attend SUMMER BAND CAMP. Those who choose not to attend Band Camp **will not be part of the Saxon Regiment** in the Fall, unless special permission is granted by the band director due to extraordinary circumstances beyond your control. Those who are not part of the Regiment in the Fall will be allowed to enroll in band second semester on a case by case basis.

By now you are all aware of the State’s budget cuts and their impact on Torrance Unified School District. One of the items the District cut is Summer Enrichment Programs, which includes the Summer PE Band being offered as an actual class. Once again this year the only way Band Camp can be offered is on a “pay to play” basis through the Summer Enrichment & Athletics program. The \$80 fee covers facilities, salaries, and insurance costs.

In addition to its educational benefits, Band Camp is an exciting time when old friends reunite, and new, lasting friendships are forged. Yes, we work extremely hard during Band Camp; VERY hard, but working hard gives us the right to play just as hard. We will have fun!

This year’s Band Camp builds on last year’s model, but adds a little more time to learn and polish the amount of drill needed to be a viable competitive group. Mr. Mark Kough will be continuing with us as our visual technician (marching and formations), in addition to being our percussion instructor.

Please put the Band Camp schedule in your calendars:

- |                       |  |                |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| • August 14           | Regiment Leadership Activity Planning                      | 12:00pm-3:00pm |
| • August 17           | 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders (and Leadership) | 9:00am-6:00pm  |
| • August 18-21, 24-28 | All Regiment Members                                       | 9:00am-9:00pm  |
| • September 12        | <i>PICNIC!!!</i>   | Time TBA       |

*for all Instrumental Music Members and Families*

Greater detail will be forthcoming, including information about meals and activities during Band Camp, but please set these times aside – and please plan to attend our Start of the Year Picnic!

## **Zero Period**

All band members are required to enroll in Zero Period “PE Band” unless a student’s academic schedule does not allow for Zero Period band (for example, if the student is taking Chemistry AP, which is a two hour class during Periods 0-1), but this must be cleared by Mr. Cooke. Students may ALSO enroll in Advanced Band or Jazz Band (with the band director’s approval which may include an audition) or Percussion Ensemble (required for all Drumline members), but students may *not* take those courses *instead* of PE Band (unless there are academic schedule conflicts). In short, the desire to get an extra hour sleep does not excuse someone from Zero Period (no one would like that extra hour more than Mr. Cooke). Please make sure your student has had breakfast **prior** to arriving at the band room; zero period is a working class period and students will not be allowed time to eat during class.

## **North High Instrumental Music Boosters Association (NHIMBA)**

*...a note from our parents:*

NHIMBA is an organization that was established to assist and support the instrumental music department and pageantry at North High School in Torrance, CA. As a group, we provide the instrumental music director with resources not currently available from the district. These resources include volunteers for events and competitions, administrative support for fundraising, and finally, financial support for coaching and other miscellaneous expenses which benefit the group as a whole. Above all, this organization exists for the benefit of all of the student performing groups and activities under the direction of the Instrumental Music Director.

If you have a student in Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Steel Drum Band, Drumline, or Color Guard, you are automatically a member of the association. There are many ways for you to be involved beyond general membership and it is the intention of the organization to provide you with those opportunities. We hope that you will find one, if not more than one area where you can assist us. Regardless of your son or daughter’s initial reaction to your involvement, they will be thankful for it in the end.

Please contact us so we can place you on our e-mail list to receive important information such as performance dates, call times, and other important, up to date information.

*[nhimba@saxonregiment.org](mailto:nhimba@saxonregiment.org)*

## **Transportation Fees / Athletic Clearance**

A transportation fee is collected by the Torrance Unified School District for all bus-involved transportation and is collected with your student’s required athletic clearance, which is [available online at www.northhighschool.org](http://www.northhighschool.org). The Saxon Regiment will be performing at all football games. They will also have a full Fall season of Field Show competitions as well as Music Festivals, and Drumline and Winter Guard competitions in the Winter and Spring. This transportation fee is a flat rate fee collected from all students involved in sports, Pep Squad, Saxon Regiment, and any other activity that involves regular district transportation. Band and Color Guard require double sport transportation fees because they are active all year. The Regiment Students are not allowed to participate without an Athletic Clearance, and clearances are not granted without a physical exam and payment of the transportation fee. The clearance forms and payment are to be turned in to the Athletic Office; please do not send them to the band director.

## Concert Attire, Regiment Band Fees, and Fundraising

With all the cuts that have been made to Education it is necessary for the band to assess a fee to cover the cost of music, equipment, maintenance, uniforms, shoes, and coaches.

In addition to marching season our musicians perform in numerous concert settings. Required concert attire is long black dresses for ladies and tuxedos for men, and must be purchased through the music department. With sales tax this one-time purchase comes to \$110 (as long as your outfit still fits). Payment is due by the end of September.

We have eliminated the unsuccessful mandatory fundraising model used over the last two years. As a result the 2009 Band Fee will be \$375 per student. We will also have special, targeted fundraisers throughout the school year, in which all music students will be expected to participate to help us meet our annual budget of over \$45,000.

Because we understand that the entire Band Fee may be difficult to come up with all at once we have a payment plan option: Six (6) monthly payments of \$62.50, payable the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, June through November. You will not receive a bill from us each month, we respectfully ask that you mail or send in your payments each month. Two sheets of payment coupons are included in this packet. Kindly fill out a coupon each time you make/turn in a payment of any kind and mail it to the North High Instrumental Music Booster Association:

NHIMBA  
P.O. Box 6621  
Torrance, CA 90504

For students who are not current on their band fees will not be eligible for leadership positions, awards, extracurricular events throughout the year such as trips, picnics, parties, and banquets, and may also be excluded from performances.

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## PRE-BAND CAMP CHECKLIST

- Signed and returned Commitment Form (*before end of 2008-2009 school year*)
- Registered for Band Camp – turned in to Front Office (*Summer Enrichment application form, before end of 2008-2009 school year*)
- Completed and Turned In Athletic Clearance Packet, including physical exam and transportation fee (*available at [northhighschool.org](http://northhighschool.org)*)
- Band Fee Payments (*Payment in Full, or...*)
  - June
  - July
  - August

## Very Important Message from Mr. Cooke

I believe the arts are extremely important to human society. What we know of past cultures and historical periods is enhanced by the arts people have left behind. Our knowledge of pre-historic cultures is based almost solely on their arts. At the same time, I believe the arts should be fun; we will work extremely hard and we will play hard. School music programs should add to the students' school experience; participation in high school music has been proven to have great benefits to analytical and academic thought processes, but I do understand that these benefits can only occur if sufficient attention is paid to academics. I will do my best keep band activities balanced with the students' academic requirements. Yes, we will often be busy, sometimes VERY busy, but I will still try to keep our students focused on their studies in addition to their music.

On that note, we have after school rehearsals twice a week throughout the Fall, and on a "To Be Announced" basis in the Spring. These rehearsals are a compulsory (required) part of being in band and are reflected in the students' grades. If a student comes up to me on the day of rehearsal and informs me he or she is unable to attend because a big project is due the next day, I will contact the teacher to find out when it was assigned. If the student simply procrastinated and is now "cramming" at the last minute, I will not excuse the absence. PLEASE plan ahead, students! We also have many students who participate in sports after school. To avoid conflicts with sports and ensure rehearsals are fully attended, after school rehearsals are scheduled from 5:00–8:00 P.M. on Mondays and Wednesdays. For students not involved in sports, you are encouraged (and expected) to use your after school time wisely; do homework and studying in that two hour window between the end of school and the start of rehearsals, or attend CSF Tutoring in the Library (it's FREE). I can not recommend tutoring highly enough; every year we have students who become ineligible at the beginning of the second quarter because they have below a 2.0 grade point average (GPA). Any student holding lower than a 2.0 GPA is not allowed to perform or compete with the band or any NHS sport. The ineligible students are still required to work for their music grades by fully attending and participating in class, and serving as our "road & tech crew" for performances and competitions. If you suspect your student may be on the path to ineligibility, please let me know and we can arrange for grade checks and verification of tutoring attendance. Every student that is not allowed to perform leaves a gap in the group's sound and field formations. Let's work together to avoid putting that terrible strain on all our students.

I am strict on rehearsal attendance because each time just one person is missing from rehearsal it means 1) the students who are present have to adjust for a gap where that person would be marching, 2) we have to go back at a later date and teach the absent student what he or she missed, wasting precious rehearsal time, and 3) it is unfair to the students who *do* fully attend rehearsals, which causes dissension in the ranks. If a student builds a pattern of missing rehearsal he or she will be given a warning. If that warning is not heeded the student will be dropped from the class and not allowed to return until the following semester.

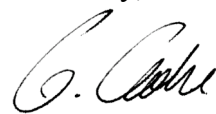
## Keep In Touch

Students whose parents or guardians take an active role in their education are far more likely to succeed. I end up spending a lot of time with your students – most of them spend many hours in the band room every day. If you as a parent or guardian have a concern with your student or simply have any questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to contact me! E-mail is by far my best method, but how you contact me is completely up to you.

- [director@saxonregiment.org](mailto:director@saxonregiment.org)
- 310-533-4412 ext. 7205 (my office at NHS)

Thank you for taking the time to read all this! I am looking forward to the upcoming school year; I anticipate our students doing amazing things and I am proud to be a part of it!

Sincerely,



Gregory Cooke



**PAYMENT COUPON** please include with ALL payments

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check number \_\_\_\_\_)

**Check All That Apply:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Band Fee \$375 (Full Payment)
<input type="checkbox"/> Band Fee \$62.50 (Installment Payment)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraiser _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Instrument Insurance Payment \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Concert Attire \$110
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Amount: \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Amount: \$ _____



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# Summer Band Camp, PE Band, Advanced Band, Regiment Band Fees

## ***Commitment Form***

By completing, signing, and returning this form, you are acknowledging that you and your student have read and understand the content of this letter. You are also committing to the timely payment of your band fees. Finally, you understand that your son or daughter's attendance of the summer Band Camp is MANDATORY unless prior arrangements are made and approved by North High School's Instrumental Music Director.

**Please indicate your preferred payment method for your regiment band fees:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Payment in full (\$375 payable to "North High Band")

\_\_\_\_\_ Six (6) Payment Arrangement (\$62.50/mo – June, July, August, September, October, November) \*  
*\*If you choose to make payments, you will NOT receive a statement / bill reminding you of your payment. Please help our program run as smoothly as possible by making sure your payments are received in a timely manner.*

**CONTACT INFORMATION** *(please print)*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

2009-2010 Grade (circle one): 8 9 10 11 12

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

eMail (parent) \_\_\_\_\_ (student) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of communication: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_ eMail \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge that both my student and I have read and understand all of the content in this package and commit to timely payment of all fees and obligations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Parent/Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Student) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please sign and return to Mr. Cooke, or mail to:*     **NHIMBA**  
*P.O. Box 6621*  
*Torrance, CA 90504*

***Office Use Only***

Date	\$	Check #	NOTES
Date	\$	Check #	NOTES
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