



# **NEW PARENT GUIDEBOOK**

**NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
SECONDARY PTO**

**2010 - 2011**

**THE HANDBOOK  
FOR NEW PARENTS AT NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

This book was written by moms whose children have recently entered NCS Middle or High School in an effort to answer questions that they had during their first year in hopes of helping new families become quickly acclimated to the many activities at the school.

**Communications**

- Website – [www.northlandchristian.org](http://www.northlandchristian.org)
  - Activities calendar – found in the quick links section on the top right hand corner
  - School calendar – can be found in the “About NCS” section. This calendar outlines school holidays, exam dates, etc.
  - Faculty/Staff Directory – can be found in the “About NCS” section.
  - Special Events and activities will usually be advertised on the home page
  - Athletic Home Page – coach’s contact information
- Renweb
  - Password protected website for parents
    - Contact Natalie Arezina ([narezina@northlandchristian.org](mailto:narezina@northlandchristian.org) or 281/440-1060) to obtain login credentials and instructions as soon as tuition is paid for the year
    - Navigate to parents web from quick links box on school website.
  - Accounting – make payments for field trips, etc.
  - Attendance
  - Discipline
  - Community service

- Family School Directory
- Report Cards – this is the only source. No paper report cards are sent out.
- Class Schedules
- School Information/Faculty Directory
- Newsletter & Document Download
- Classroom
  - Includes links to each teacher, progress reports, lesson plans, and homework assignments by week
- Emails
  - Periodically sent out by administration announcing various events, etc.
- Campus newsletter
  - Published periodically
  - Email will be sent out announcing its publication and then it can be viewed from renweb

### **Calendar of recurring events**

The following is a generalized list of events that have taken place at NCS over the past few years. It is not a guarantee that all of these events will take place each year, but it gives an indication of what to expect. Descriptions of the events can be found in the appropriate sections found in this handbook. For the actual dates of a certain event, please refer to the online activities calendar available on the school website, [www.northlandchristian.org](http://www.northlandchristian.org) and then navigate to the upper right hand corner quick links pull down menu.

#### July

- HS Yearbook Camp

#### August

- Impact Concussion Testing for Athletic participants
- Heart Screenings for Athletic participants
- HS Football & Volleyball – 2-a-days two weeks before school begins
- MS Football – practice week before school begins
- HS Debate – practice week before school begins
- HS Musical – practice week before school begins
- HS Cross Country – begins first week of school
- MS Volleyball – begins first week of school
- New Parent Orientation for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents & new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and high school parents (separate meetings)
- New Student Orientation – week before school begins (MS and HS held separately)

#### September

- PTO Back to School coffee for new parents
- Homecoming
- All school pep rally and chapel

#### October

- HS Musical
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Booster Club Golf Tournament
- MS Basketball tryouts
- HS Soccer begins
- HS Basketball begins
- PLAN & PSAT Testing 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students

#### November

- Christian Council Blood Drive
- Cougar Fest/Fall Festival

#### December

- MS plays

- MS/HS Choir visits local nursing homes
- MS/HS Fine Art concert & Art Exhibit
- Breakfast with Santa

#### January

- HS Football Banquet
- National Art Honor Society induction
- Community Open House for potential new families
- HS Baseball begins
- HS Softball begins
- HS Tennis begins
- HS Golf begins
- HS Track begins
- MS baseball and softball tryouts
- National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony

#### February

- Spiritual Renewal Day
- All School Patriotic Assembly
- National Honor Society induction ceremony

#### March

- HS Fall/Winter Sports Banquet
- Christian Council Blood Drive
- HS Drama Shorts presentation
- MS/HS Achievement Testing
- MS/HS Academic Counseling for choosing next year's courses
- MS/HS Cheerleader tryouts

#### April

- MS/HS Mother Daughter Dinner
- MS/HS Father Son Dinner

#### May

- HS Spring Sports Banquet
- Junior/Senior Prom
- MS/HS Fine Arts Extravaganza
- AP Exams
- HS Spring Comedy
- MS All Sports Banquet
- HS Spring Football practice & game
- HS Fine Arts Banquet
- Senior Recognition Luncheon
- Senior Class Trip
- MS Drama Production
- MS 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade Awards Ceremony
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Awards & Graduation Ceremony
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Retreat
- HS Awards Ceremony

### **School Day**

- Modified block schedule
  - Middle School
    - Monday, Tuesday, and Friday all classes meet
    - Wednesday block schedule – odd period classes meet
    - Thursday block schedule – even period classes meet, late arrival for students because of teacher development
    - In season Athletics meets before school MTWF, PE/Athletics 1<sup>st</sup> period
  - High School
    - Monday, Tuesday, and Friday all classes meet
    - Wednesday block schedule – odd period classes meet

- Thursday block schedule – even period classes meet, late arrival for students because of teacher development
- Athletics after school
- Chapel on Wednesdays
  - Meets every Wednesday for 40 minutes.
  - No pressure is placed on the students to worship in a certain manner
  - Some students stand, some clap, some raise hands, some sit quietly, some sing loud, and some sing softly
  - Parents are always welcome to attend Chapel
- First two days of school
  - different schedule
  - half days
- Lunch
  - buy (\$5-7/day)
  - pre-order monthly, no spot sales
  - bring from home
  - parent visits (bring Subway, McDonald's)

### **Campus organizations for students**

- **Academic**
  - Academic Meet
    - Optional activity
    - Students chosen based on grades and behavior
    - 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders compete in Houston, Dallas or San Antonio
    - 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders compete at Abilene Christian University
    - At parent's expense
  - TAPPS Academic Meet
  - Academic Quest

- Local academic competition
- Students chosen by teachers
- MS Mathcounts
  - Local academic competition
  - Students chosen by teachers
- National Junior Honor Society
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- National Honor Society
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- National Art Honor Society
- **Other**
  - Girl Scouts
  - Boy Scouts – not offered at this time
  - Christian Council
    - Similar to Student Council
    - 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Class officers
    - 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade elections
  - Cotillion
    - Not sponsored by school
    - 7<sup>th</sup> graders only

### **Campus organizations for parents**

- PTO
  - Grade representatives
  - Faculty Christmas Fund
    - Coordinate an online means to make donations for faculty gifts
  - Hospitality

- Provide meals, snacks, and drinks on teacher in service days and holidays
- Receptions
  - Plan and organize graduation and honor society receptions
- Facility Improvement
  - Plant and maintain flowers and shrubbery on campus and at corners
  - Painting and decorating projects as needed
- Library
  - Chair Barnes & Noble Night
  - Assist librarians as needed
- Parent/Child Special events
  - Banquets, service projects, outings, etc.
- Athletic Booster Club
- Fine Arts Society
- Moms in Touch
  - Meet weekly to pray for students, faculty, and families
  - Prayer request box located in the lobby of principal's office
- Board of Directors
  - Open positions are filled by existing board
  - Meetings not open, but can request an invitation to attend/speak

### **Academics**

- Summer Reading program
  - Required reading for each grade
  - Books are assigned in May before school ends
  - Usually includes required books in addition to books of the student's choice
  - Books can be purchased in the Cougar Store before school ends

- Tests or projects related to the novels will be done during the first nine weeks of the school year
- Study Skills Classes
  - Offered during the summer
  - For incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Identifies how the student learns and gives them ways to improve their study habits
  - Teaches organizational skills and how to set up their binders for the school year
  - Optional
  - Parent's expense
- Signing up for classes
  - First time
    - Admissions will contact you during the summer for course selection.
  - Subsequent years
    - Online through renweb
    - Grade level parent meetings with administrators and school counselors held before online registration begins
    - Class choices are available in the Excellence in Academics course guide (available online or in building 1)
    - A list of the chosen courses will be sent by mail to proofread and/or change and must be submitted back to the registrar's office
- Final exams
  - Final exams are taken at the end of each semester
  - Administered during the last four days of the semester
  - Two a day are given: one at 7:50am and the second at 9:20am

- No school activities are planned during this week to give students extra time to study
- Seniors have the chance to exempt one final each semester
- All other students taking high school level courses have the chance to exempt one final during the Spring semester
- See the parent/student handbook on renweb for the list of qualifying exemptions
- Testmasters
  - Optional course to help juniors and seniors prepare for the SAT/ACT
  - Extra expense
- Laptops
  - 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders purchase macs through the school
- Field Trips
  - Each grade usually takes at least one field trip during the year
  - Coordinated with the curriculum
  - Most are day trips but others require overnight stays
  - Optional, and at parent's expense.
  - Sampling of field trips
    - 6<sup>th</sup> grade
      - Museum of Natural Science
    - 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas History
      - Steamboat House
      - Washington on the Brazos
      - Huntsville
      - San Antonio
      - San Jacinto
    - 8<sup>th</sup> grade
      - US History - Boston

- English - Play at Alley Theatre
- High School
  - Economics - Blue Bell Creamery
  - Science - HMNS Body Worlds Exhibit
  - Science – Anatomy Lab at UTMB
  - Fine Arts – musicals and plays
  - 11<sup>th</sup> grade US History – Washington, DC
  - 12<sup>th</sup> grade Senior Trip - Disneyworld
- Bible
  - HMNS Birth of Christianity Exhibit

### **Fundraisers**

- Cookie Dough Sales
  - Benefits PTO programs
- Cougar Fest
  - Benefits junior and senior classes
  - Carnival held on a Saturday in the Fall
- Garage Sale
  - Benefits Fine Arts Society and PTO programs
- Valentine's Day
  - Benefits Senior class prom
  - Carnations, singing telegrams, and balloons are sold to parents and students to be delivered in class on Valentine's Day
- Breakfast with Santa
  - Benefits Senior class prom
  - Breakfast for elementary students on a Saturday near Christmas
- Sharathon
  - Benefits entire school
  - Online giving

- Black and Gold Event
  - Benefits entire school
  - Usually held in the Spring
  - Evening of dinner, entertainment, silent and live auctions
- Golf Tournament
  - Benefits Athletic Booster Club

### **Athletics**

- Sports offered and time of year played
  - MS/HS Football - Fall
  - HS Cross Country – Fall
  - MS Soccer – Winter
  - MS/HS Volleyball - Fall
  - MS/HS Basketball – Winter
  - HS Soccer – Winter
  - MS/HS Baseball - Spring
  - MS/HS Softball – Spring
  - HS Golf – Spring
  - HS Tennis – Spring
  - MS/HS Track – Spring
  - MS/HS Cheerleading – All year
- Special considerations for Fall sports
  - HS football & volleyball practice 2-a-days every day in August
  - MS football practice week before school starts
- Special events
  - 15 summer sport camps including basketball, baseball, football, soccer, strength and conditioning and volleyball
  - Athletic banquets for:
    - HS Fall / Winter sports in March

- HS spring sports in May
- MS All-Sports in May
- Homecoming - September
- Concussion Baseline Testing
  - Computer testing that provides a baseline for athletes in case of an injury which causes a concussion
  - Given the first week of August

### **Other stuff**

- Yearbook
  - Published annually
  - Middle school and high school have separate books
  - Elective for middle school and high school students
  - Require application for placement in class
- Pep Rallies
  - Held frequently during football season
- School plays
  - Major productions in Fall and Spring
  - Widely attended by school community
- Attendance at sporting events
  - High school football widely attended by school community
  - Season tickets available
- High School teacher class sponsors
  - Coordinate class officer elections
  - Coordinate junior and senior class fundraising
  - Sponsor prom
- Cougar Store
  - Source for uniforms and spirit wear
  - Open a few weeks before school begins

- Open in the afternoons during school
- Offers snacks and drinks during school year
- Source for novels read in classes

### **Spiritual Life**

- Prayer life is stressed and is an important part of student life at NCS
- Optional prayer related events
  - Weekly prayer in outdoor classroom Wednesday mornings at 7 am
  - Prayer Rally - Fall
  - Prayer Walk - Spring
- Worship Band
  - Plays at chapel
- Spiritual Renewal Day
  - A special Northland tradition in which the entire day is dedicated to energizing and rededicating students on their spiritual journey
  - Guest speakers are brought in to motivate, challenge and encourage the students
  - Parents are invited to experience this celebration with their students
- Community Service
  - Middle School is required to serve 15 hours per year
  - High School is required to serve 20 hours per year
  - Start earning hours the summer before the school year begins
  - Documentation form on the website under Spiritual Life
  - Opportunities to serve with a school group:
    - NAM (Northwest Assistance Ministries – Thanksgiving Food Drive)

- The Bridges Apartments (tutoring children in both English and Spanish)
- Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (host two blood drives)
- Montrose Street Reach (Wednesday outdoor worship service in Montrose)
- The Arrow Project (Cougar Christmas for foster children)
- Houston Children's Charity (host annual Easter party)
- Impact Church of Christ (serving Sunday lunch to the members and visitors of an inner city church)
- The Hampton Assisted Living (Willowbrook Mall area)
- Care Net Pregnancy Center (annual diaper drive)
- Due to the nature of the ministries, there may be age limits on some activities.
- Students can pick independent projects in order to satisfy their community service requirements

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