



## NORTON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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Thomas Chiera, Director of Bands  
Charles A. Kaufman, Assistant Director  
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Dear Norton School Board Members,

I am writing to request approval for the Norton High School Marching Band and choir to represent the school district and Norton community as a participating ensemble in the 2017 Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade and NYC trip. The music program traditionally has travelled every couple years in order to provide unique performance and life experiences. If you have further questions after review of this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me. After investigating and working on this opportunity I am certain it will be a memorable, educational, and enjoyable experience for all involved.

**Where:** Philadelphia, PA – New York City, NY  
**Why:** Thanksgiving Day Parade, Central Park Performance, NYC tours including Broadway and 9/11 Memorial  
**When:** Nov 22 2017 – Nov. 26, 2017  
**Who:** All Marching Band students, HS Choir students, staff, and chaperones are invited  
**Price:** approximately \$800 per person

### **Tentative Itinerary**

Charter Busses will leave out of Norton transporting all participants November 22, 2017.

Events in Philadelphia will include participation in the oldest Thanksgiving Day Parade in the Country. An application was submitted last year involving past performances and recognitions. Norton is one of 16 marching bands accepted this year. In New York City the choir will perform in Central Park, the entire group will experience a Broadway stage performance in Phantom of the Opera and the Rockettes Christmas Special.

Other events may include recreational time in Philadelphia and touring opportunities in New York City at the 9/11 memorial.

### **Who will be attending:**

The intention is to include all band students. The trip is not in any way required. Of course cost is a major determining factor. My goal is to make every effort to give every student the best opportunity to participate by making accommodations with fundraisers and sponsorships. Participation will be a determining factor in the success of the trip therefore if we do not have enough participation (75%) to respectfully represent the band program, school and community we will re evaluate our travel plans. Along with the student body staff will include directors Tom Chiera, Chuck Kaufman, Jen Casper and other available band staff. The band has a history of travelling efficiently and effectively with a great team of parent chaperones. Our traditional equation is to have at least one chaperone per ten students balancing out the number of each gender to accommodate the student population. We also travel with a parent that is a registered nurse in case of emergencies.

**Fundraising:**

The Norton Music Boosters are geared up to provide many fundraisers as needed to support the student's financial needs. We have already held car washes and candy sales in preparation of future expenses. Discussions have included other traditional sales such as cookie dough, zap-a-snack, but also included service type fundraisers like, lawn services, babysitting, etc. There is also the possibility of getting community and corporate sponsors to help defray the group expenses. I am aware that this is a major financial undertaking. I am very confident that the group of staff, students and parents involved in the band program and music boosters are determined to make a great effort at accomplishing this challenge.

**Will the students miss any days of school?**

The Philii/NYC trip will fall mostly over the fall break. As of right now we anticipate needing to be in Philadelphia early Thursday morning thus needing to depart Wednesday which would require the students and staff to miss the last day before fall break. The return date is expected to be early Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> with time to recuperate in preparation for school on Monday.

**Who is the company that is organizing the trip:****Nowak Tours**

**1395 Barn Run Drive  
Valley City, Ohio, 44280  
[www.nowaktours.com](http://www.nowaktours.com)**

Nowak tours came with great recommendation from the middle school staff that travels to Washington D.C. with them each year.

Musically,

Thomas Chiera