

What is **twitter** ?

Twitter is another one of those silly little “What are you doing now?” web applications. It is similar to Facebook but without the social networking aspect of pictures, discussion boards, etc.

People have been figuring out a way to use Twitter for keeping people informed. Politicians are the latest to discover this communication tool. Even the Nixa school system has a Twitter following.

What is my purpose of using it?

I have been trying to figure out a way to bring real time updates to parents and students of the band program. What Twitter offers is updates that can arrive by text message.

What about the website or my blog or even the activity line?

The website has to be updated by my laptop. I have been looking for something that can be updated by my phone. I can achieve that with the blog but that information can't be brought to you by a text message. And I really would like you to have that option. I still will use the website obviously and at times the blog. The activity line will still be used for those who wish to use although I do hope to start phasing it out.

What does this cost?

Nothing. It's free to you and me.

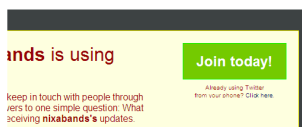
What steps do you need to do to follow my Twitter?

I have included steps below.

In conclusion, I really encourage you to join up and take advantage of this service, primarily because of the text messaging. This will provide you updates on arrival times from trips, contest results, web updates, etc. And no it won't be the typical social networking updates. And I promise, it will be used appropriately. (No “Craig is having dinner at Golden Corral” posts).

Steps for signing up:

1. Visit www.twitter.com/nixabands and click on Join Today! (You'll notice that you can already see my updates. Joining will allow them to be delivered to you via email or text message).



2. Fill out the required information. Use your real name. Names that I don't recognize I will probably delete.
3. It may ask you if you would like to see if your friends are on Twitter. You can do this or you skip it. Your choice.
4. It then might show that you can add people to follow from a list. Again, you can do it or skip it.
5. At some point during the process you will be asked if you want to follow nixabands. The answer is yes.
6. **For text alerts** (Twitter doesn't charge anything for this, but be sure to know what your text plan looks like with your wireless carrier). At the top of the page you should see the word settings. Click on it.

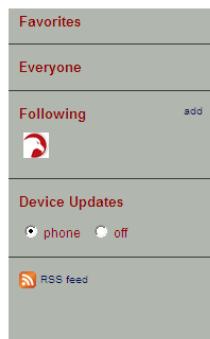
7. Choose devices and enter your mobile number in the format given and hit save.

8. You will then receive an email giving you a code to text to Twitter activating that number.
9. **These next steps are important in order to receive the alerts. (Focus on #9, #11, #13.)**
Back in your device settings, you will want to make sure that device updates are on.

10. Click on the Home button at the top of the page. (Not your browser home button).



11. On the sidebar, make sure device updates are on.



12. At the top of the sidebar click on "following". You should see nixabands.



13. Choose device updates on.



14. You should be good to go! If you have issues, feel free to come by the HS and I will help set you up.