

# Spring 2020

## New Decade. New Direction. All in.



## WELCOME

In my short time at Northwood High School, we have been “all gas and no breaks.” Through the long days and late nights, the Northwood Falcons have electrified the community with success through our high-flying offense and explosive, hard-hitting defense. Now, with the retirement of legendary coach, Jim Gatlin, I am both honored and extremely excited to be writing to you as the new head football coach at Northwood High School. We are ready to ROCK N’ ROLL and beyond excited to show the rest of the state what we’ve got cookin’ because as I tell my athletes, “My chili’s HOT!”

Blanchard has felt like home since the day I accepted the Defensive Coordinator job 3 years ago. My wife and I are driven to succeed in all that we do, and we knew that we would have many opportunities in the future. We just did not know they would happen so fast. She is a leading sales rep in her worldwide company, Allergan, and I am blessed to be surrounded by the best community of student-athletes, parents, coaches, administrators, teachers, alumni and fans anyone could ever ask for.

## State of the program

Northwood’s program has never been better. Over the past 9 seasons, Coach Gatlin raised the bar by molding us into a perennial powerhouse program in both the immediate Shreveport/ Bossier area and

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Louisiana Class 4A Football. Our doors are constantly filled with the shadows of college recruiters from across the country; Alabama, LSU, Oklahoma, and Texas make regular stops, amongst many others.

When Coach Gatlin first took over the Falcon program 10 years ago, we were only comprised of 30 kids. Today, the Falcon program has drawn in upwards of 90 vibrant, student-athletes making the 2020 Northwood Falcon football team the largest in school history; and we still have more to come in the fall with the addition of the Freshman class!!!

It was with your help that Coach Gatlin was able to bring his vision for Falcon football to life. We boast about having the best facilities in the area. With the addition of the Northwood Football ‘Hall of Fame’, our student-athletes are able to bask in the accomplishments of those before them. Members of the team congregate daily in this area to cultivate their own dreams, aspirations and goals, discussing amongst themselves which records they will break in order to add their name to those elite few. As the team makes their way through the history of the program, they are met in the locker room by the images of those very same people in action. As a thank you, I would personally like to invite you and your families to take a tour of our facilities and observe spring work-outs. You can find us on the field between 2:45p to 3:45p.

## ***The Luke Bogan Era***

The past three years have brought unprecedented success to Northwood: 31 wins, 8 play-off games, 5-3 play-off record with 2 quarter final appearances. We have broken nearly every major record in program history as our offense averaged over 40 points a game. We affectionately call this period ‘The *Luke Bogan Era*’. In Luke Brogan’s career, he has thrown for over 8,000 yards and more than 100 TDs. He leads some of Louisiana’s all-time great NFL Quarterbacks, Terry Bradshaw and the Manning brothers, as he finished his high school career in the Top 10 of all-time in Louisiana High School football history.

However, our offense has not been the only ones to demonstrate recent success. Northwood’s defense has dramatically decreased the amount of points allowed per game by 2 TDs compared to previous years. Additionally, we have produced some of the most statistically significant and prolific defensive players in Northwood history such as linebackers, Tyler Lummus and Kyren Brown.

In looking ahead to our future, the 2019 freshman football team went undefeated and outscored opponents by almost 140 points. Combine those results with the results of the incoming 8th graders from Hendon Magnet and Donnie Bickham Middle School (who have won their 5th city championship in the last 6

years), the outlook for Northwood and Falcon Football is bright! As we say at Northwood, “It’s a GREAT day to be a FALCON!”

## **New Decade. New Direction. All in.**

Our recent success also brings challenges. First on the list is keeping our kids safe, which can be an expensive proposition. We are currently in plans to remodel our training room with hopes of purchasing state-of-the-art rehabilitation and prevention equipment. Next, it is absolutely essential that our student-athletes have quality equipment that is properly maintained and replaced on a regular basis. This is not only a priority for NHS, but there is actual legislation in place that requires it. With that in mind, we spend thousands of dollars each year just to be in compliance

As a father and a coach, I believe that we have a duty to go beyond what is “required” for our players. We must provide the best equipment for these young men while under our charge. In an effort to have these demands met, this year I would like to fundraise the monies necessary to purchase new equipment for all current and future Falcons, starting with helmets. The goal is that for each year after, we replace the bottom 6-12% of our current inventory with newer helmets, shoulder pads, and cleats so that we are able to provide protective equipment that meets the constantly evolving demand. To keep cost low for our families, we also like to buy team-issued game cleats; a goal we have not been able to achieve for the last 2+ years due to other demands. In this effort, we would transition our current footwear to the ‘practice-only’ apparel, keeping the newly purchased cleats limited for games only. To make these things happen, we will have to raise a minimum of \$15,000.

When considering whether to donate, please consider the benefits to you and the Blanchard community. We are a program that is focused on developing young men through accountability and responsibility. This program is molding 100+ future neighbors, friends, brothers, husbands and fathers. A strong high school football team reflects a strong community. Go Falcons!

- **Current parents of students at NHS you can donate through [payforit.net](https://payforit.net)**
- **Donate through [locallevelvents.com](https://locallevelvents.com)**
  - [search 71107]
- **Send check through mail to:**

**Northwood High School  
ATTN: Northwood Football  
5939 Old Mooringsport Road  
Shreveport, LA 71107**

