**HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA Syllabus (course description)**
Open to all incoming 9th Grade Orchestra members and returning members. New students may be added after meeting with Mr. Hedges. At this point, students should have secured use of an instrument. There is a $30 rental fee for students who do not own their own instrument and need to rent one from the school. This fee assists in the care and maintenance of school owned instruments.

High School Orchestra members will present concerts in October (Monday, October 21 @ 7p), December (Thursday, December 12 @ 7p) April (Tuesday, April 21 @ 7p) and for Senior Awards Night and possibly Graduation/Commencement Ceremonies. In addition, this ensemble will also perform with at the 2020 Kings Island Performance in the Parks Music Event on Saturday, April 18, 2020.

Students will be able to audition for ALL STATE (Saturday, Nov. 16 @Woodford County Middle School in Versailes, KY). Students will also be given the opportunity to audition for various ensembles throughout the Greater Cincinnati Area. Members of this ensemble will also have the opportunity to participate in the Jazz Ensemble (beginning in November). And of course, Orchestra members are encouraged to participate in the Conner High School Marching Band by learning a new instrument (woodwind, brass, percussion/Spring Training begins after Spring Break)!

**Required Daily Supplies**

 Instrument, Pencil, Music Folder. All students should get a metronome app OR have access to the internet, with sound at home. All playing tests will be taken with a metronome. You can access an online metronome at:

[www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com)

All instruments should have a care kit. All instruments are also responsible for their own rosin, mutes, strings, etc.

One of the greatest aspects of joining the orchestra is that it is a mutual CHOICE that you made with your child. It is essential that students remain 100% committed to their choice to participate in band. It is important that both students and parents understand that students will remain in this class for a minimum of one year.

**Concert Attendance**

While excellence certainly takes many forms in music, it must begin with the very essence of what we do, which is to perform our art. Since performance requires all members to be present in order to be truly successful (think of a baseball game without a pitcher), attendance at all performances is absolutely critical. It is expected that when you choose to participate in orchestra, that you accept the responsibilities that go along with that participation. These events are considered part of the course requirements and participation results in a grade for all students. This grade is based on attendance, punctuality, effort, and behavior. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert unless prior arrangements have been made with the director. Failure to attend will affect the student's grade.

It is understood that some legitimate conflicts may arise, please check performance dates as soon as they are announced, and make every effort to arrange your schedule accordingly. It is not acceptable to miss a graded performance for clubs, sporting events, or private lessons. If you need assistance making arrangements with a coach, or sponsor please let me know. The athletic department has always worked well with the music department and we hope to continue that relationship. Excused absences include illness, religious commitments, and family emergencies. Please contact the director prior to any absence. It is very important that you plan ahead and communicate. Performing groups are the ultimate example of a team, every member is essential to a quality performance.  So, celebrate the choice that was made to be involved in music making: be present for all required activities and performances!

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**COUGAR Pep Band for Orchestra**

In order to support our school athletic teams and build a positive school culture, orchestra students are encouraged to attend scheduled athletic events and play in the pep band (learn a new instrument?) or just help cheer. Violins can play the flute/oboe music. Violas, will have to transpose. Cellos and Basses can read the bass clef band parts.
Pep Band Dates: Cougar Madness Event will be in November. This is a big night for our school and community!
Regular Home Games: TBA

**Required Concert Attire**

It is important that when we perform, we represent ourselves, our school, and our community with class. A first impression is a lasting impression so we want our band to look sharp! Concert dress is provided by each student and the guidelines are as follows:

ALL BLACK….black shirt/pants/skirt below the knees/shocks/shoes

The shirt music be tucked in!!!

It is important that all students adhere to the dress code. If you need help obtaining these items, please contact the director. We are more than happy to help make sure everyone is outfitted properly!

**Grading System**

Work Ethic-Daily grade

All students are required to practice 100 minutes weekly. I suggest that students break this time into five 20 minute intervals. This will be a challenge for students so it is very important that every student gets into a routine. A practice plan has been given to each student to complete. They should try to practice in the same place and at the same time of day. It is important that the practice area be free of distractions and well lit. I will not require practice logs, but practice habits are very obvious when playing during class.

Orchestra is a group activity, so excellent student behavior and work ethic are two of the single most important things they can master. Good rehearsal technique is essential to learning and having fun! It will take some longer than others to become distinguished on their instrument, but good listening skills and effort are a large portion of their grade. If students do not have their instrument, then they cannot fully participate in class and there will be a deduction in the work-ethic daily grade.

Content Grades-Assessments & Written Assignments

Music Folder (provided by Orchestra)–Students will have plenty of music to learn and outside materials at times throughout the year. Any theory worksheets or outside assignments should be kept in their music folder.

Excerpts and Scales Assessments-Students will be assigned at least one playing test each nine weeks. All playing tests will be played with a metronome. This will be a short excerpt from a piece of music or an exercise from their method book or scales. These will become part of their playing test during the second semester. These assessments may be performed during class or recorded.

Large Ensemble preparation and performances (which includes being present for rehearsals and the performances/includes pep band) will factor heavily into this area of grading.

The orchestra occasionally takes educational trips both during and outside of the school day. Any time our students are in representing our school, all school rules/policies regarding behavior are enforced. Things such as bullying/harassment, dress code, or other violations of the CHS Code of Conduct will not be tolerated!

**Maintenance & Preparation**

Students will randomly be asked to show that their instrument/bridge/strings/pegs/bow, etc are in good working order. Students cannot learn to play their instrument if they are not maintaining the instrument.

Students may also be asked to show their daily supplies: folder, music, pencil, etc. Students cannot learn if they don’t have their material. It is essential that students come to class prepared!

**Instrument Repair**

Minor instrument repairs can be performed by the band director before or after school in the band room. If you have a personally owned instrument, you will need to take the instrument in for repair if we cannot fix it in the band room. If you are renting an instrument, Buddy Rogers, Wert or Willis Music, Antonio Violins, can pick your instrument up for repair during their weekly visit.

Thank you,

Chris Hedges
Conner High School Band & Orchestra Director

CONNER HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Please read through to the bottom of this message.

Concert Performances are the events in which your students can demonstrate what they have been learning. Concert Performances are mandatory events.  (If there is a conflict, please contact Mr. H through email or text). Please mark the following dates on your calendars.
These are the Orchestra concert dates for the 2019-2020 school year.
**Monday, October 21, 2019**
Spooky Concert (ALL BLACK OR BLACK/ORANGE)
7p  CHS Auditorium

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**
Holiday Concert (ALL BLACK W/HOLIDAY ACCENT COLORS)
7p CHS Auditorium

We may do a concert in March for the Florence Mall's Music In Our Schools Month.  I will send info once we have received the information.

**Saturday, April 18, 2020**
Kings Island Music in the Parks Performance (ALL BLACK)

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**
7p Spring Concert CHS Auditorium (ALL BLACK W/SPRING ACCENT COLORS)
**Monday, April 27, 2020**
Spring Band, Orchestra, Guard, and Percussion Banquet
7p  CHS in CHS Cafeteria

**\*The Orchestra will also perform at the Senior Awards Night at the end of the school year. (ALL BLACK)**

Jazz Ensemble will have auditions in November.  WE ALWAYS NEED BASS PLAYERS.  Here are the dates for the Jazz Ensemble/Percussion Ensemble Concerts:
**Monday, December 16, 2019**
7p CHS Auditorium

**Possible/Friday, March 20, 2020**
Florence Mall Music In Our Schools Month Concert

Monday, April 20, 2020
7p CHS Auditorium