

CONWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ORCHESTRAS
A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



CONWAY HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
2018-2019 PARENT GUIDE

Director:

Casey Buck buckc@conwayschools.net

Assistant Directors:

Matthew Gardner gardnerma@conwayschools.net

Tom McDonald mcdonaldt@conwayschools.net

Find copies of this parent guide, important forms, and our calendar online at

ORCHESTRA.CONWAYSCHOOLS.ORG

2018-2019 ORCHESTRA CALENDAR

- Sept 15 **South Region Orchestra Auditions**
Conway High School
- Sept 21-22 **South Region Orchestra Clinic** (by audition)
James H. Clark Auditorium, Formal Concert Dress
- Nov 1 **"La Fiesta Orquesta" Taco Supper, Concerts,
and Silent Auction**
Conway High School Cafeteria & Buzz Bolding Arena
Times TBA, Orchestra T-Shirts and Jeans
- Nov 7 **Trip Deposit due** (*nonrefundable* \$150/remaining balance)

**Full Orchestra REQUIRED After-School Rehearsals:
December 5, 12, 19; January 9, 14
3:45 - 5:30 in the CHS Band room**

- Dec 12 **Trip Payment #2 due** (\$100 or remaining balance)
- Jan 16 **Full Orchestra Dress Rehearsal**
3:45-5:30 pm, James H. Clark Auditorium
- Jan 17 **Full Orchestra Concert**
6:30 pm, James H. Clark Auditorium
Formal Concert Dress
- Jan 23 **Final Trip Payment due** (\$100 or remaining balance)
- Feb 2 **All-State Orchestra Auditions**
(grades 10-12 who made All-Region), UCA
- Feb 13-16 **All-State Orchestra Clinic** (by audition)
Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs
- Feb 21 **Solo and Ensemble Assessment**
After school, Times TBA, Conway Junior High
- Mar 7-10 **CHS Orchestra Spring Trip**
Departure Times and Itinerary TBA
- Mar 14 **Orchestra Pre-Assessment Concert**
Times TBA, James H. Clark Auditorium
Formal Concert Dress
- April 4 **Region IX Concert Assessment**
Day/Time TBA, James H. Clark Auditorium
Formal Concert Dress
- April 25 **Spring Concert and Awards Ceremony**
6:30 pm, James H. Clark Auditorium
Formal Concert Dress

****ALL CONCERTS ARE REQUIRED EVENTS. ATTENDANCE WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE STUDENT'S GRADE****

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PARENT GUIDE CONTRACT

Registering your information with the Conway Orchestra program is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Visit our website at orchestra.conwayschools.org and click the "Online Registration Form" link
2. Fill out the parent contact information and parent guide contract
3. Click submit – you're done!

Or, Scan the QR code and fill it out on your phone:



ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Conway Orchestras website:** orchestra.conwayschools.org
Find copies of this parent guide, other important forms, and our calendar online
- Sync our **Google calendar** to your own by adding conwayorchestras@gmail.com

Please provide and keep current email addresses on file with your child's orchestra director.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Like and follow us on **Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram** by adding **@conwayorchestra**. We'll post photos, videos, reminders, and other fun and useful items here throughout the year. Don't forget to tag us as well!

ORCHESTRA SUPPLY LIST

Each student should have the following items at their seat daily:

- A 3-RING BINDER will be provided by the orchestra. Replacements are \$2 each.
- A sharpened PENCIL with an eraser
- Workable ROSIN and a SOFT CLOTH to clean the instrument
- A SHOULDER REST for Violinists and Violists, or an ENDPIN STOP for Cellists and Bassists.

OPTIONAL, but VERY helpful:

- MUSIC STAND for at-home practice
- METRONOME and TUNER, or metronome and tuner apps
- VIDEO CAMERA, phone, tablet, or other device for recording

CONWAY HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Conway High School Orchestra is to offer Conway High School string students the opportunity to continue to develop personal performing, listening, and musical skills at advanced levels, and to work together to perform a variety of string and full orchestra music. The participation of string, wind, brass, and percussion students in full orchestra grants students a chance to experience performing symphonic music. Students are expected to supply their own instruments (except bass players) and to purchase method books, orchestra t-shirts, and instrument accessories as needed. Students are also strongly encouraged to upgrade the quality of their instruments, strings, and bows if they have not already, to allow them to achieve more nuance in tone quality and technique that only a finer instrument can provide.

PHILOSOPHY

The orchestra program emphasizes the importance of **QUALITY WORK**, **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**, and **TEAM-MINDEDNESS**. The orchestra program aims to provide an enjoyable learning environment where students can develop skills that are necessary to become competent and independent musicians. To contribute to the success of the group, orchestra students experience a professional environment in an educational setting. The director immerses the students in practices, protocol, and etiquette identical to those followed by professional orchestras to drive learning, stage presence, and performance standards to the highest level. Students continue to develop their knowledge of music theory and music history to further their understanding of the music they perform as facets of becoming a “whole musician.”

CLASS EMPHASIS

Class emphasis is on individual technique as well as ensemble playing. String and full orchestra literature of many styles will be rehearsed and performed. Various materials will be used to improve technique, including technical exercises and scales. Student advancement will be demonstrated and assessed through individual progress and required performances.

For detailed student learning expectations for orchestra, please visit the orchestra website at orchestra.conwayschools.org.

INSTRUMENT TECHNIQUE	ESSENTIAL MUSICAL SKILLS	MUSIC APPRECIATION AND EXPRESSION	PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
<p>Left and right hand coordination</p> <p>Finger dexterity through the use of scales and etudes</p> <p>“Fingerboard geography” (instrument positions) and shifting</p> <p>Vibrato</p> <p>A wide repertoire of bow strokes and when to use them appropriately</p> <p>Principles of sound production</p>	<p>Musical symbols and their functions</p> <p>Accurate sight-reading of notes and rhythms</p> <p>Visual and aural recognition of pitch, intervals, and tonality</p> <p>Elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, timbre, texture)</p> <p>Playing in tune</p> <p>Playing alone and with others</p> <p>Practice techniques</p>	<p>A wide variety of repertoire</p> <p>Stylistic performance of repertoire</p> <p>Music in relation to historical and cultural context</p> <p>Music in relation to the students' lives and experiences</p> <p>Performing with phrasing and musical expression</p> <p>Proper audience and stage etiquette</p> <p>Objective evaluation and constructive criticism of performances</p>	<p>Proper social and job etiquette</p> <p>Professional work ethic</p> <p>Problem-solving strategies</p> <p>Musician health and the prevention of performance-related injuries</p> <p>Managing performance anxiety</p> <p>Teamwork, self-discipline, time management, and confidence</p>

EXPECTATIONS OF ORCHESTRA STUDENTS

All rules and regulations contained in the Conway High School student handbook apply to ALL orchestra students during ALL orchestra activities.

- Respect all people and things in the Orchestra room. Any teacher in the music room is to be respected as the person in charge.
- Instruments other than yours are off-limits, including percussion instruments and pianos.
- The office is off-limits unless you need to speak to a teacher. Please knock on the door.
- Food, drink, candy, and gum are not allowed in the music complex.
- Storage shelves, cubbies, and storage rooms should be kept neat and free of trash.

- Large ensemble rooms and storage rooms are off-limits before school, during lunch, and after school unless you are getting your instrument or putting it away, or with prior permission. Do not loiter in these rooms.
- The elevator at the high school may be used only by those students who are transporting cellos or basses or in extenuating physical circumstances.

ORCHESTRA PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

Absences, tardies, and credit for late and make-up assignments will be handled as stated in the school handbook. **Attendance at all concerts and after-school rehearsals is required and will be reflected in the student's grade.**

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Students should be ready at their seat with their instrument, music, and a pencil. You may tune and warm up in your seats until it is time to tune. Do not do homework or read books during rehearsal. At the end of the period loosen bow, pack instrument, and put music and instruments in the proper storage space. Inappropriate treatment of school instruments will result in forfeiture of use.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

The orchestra room will be unlocked and supervised before and after school for students to drop off and pick up instruments. Storage rooms are not for keeping personal items such as backpacks or binders. The storage room is not a social meeting place. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT IN THE CAR!**

Cellos and basses should be stored on the appropriate racks. Violin and viola players will be assigned a locker. The school will provide a combination lock for those who would like to use one. If a student chooses to use their own, they must provide the teacher with the combination. No keyed locks will be allowed. A lost lock is subject to a \$10 fee. Lockers are subject to search at any time and without warning, and should be kept clean and free of trash. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines may forfeit their use of the locker.

While every attempt is made to ensure the safety of students' personal belongings, the music complex is a high traffic area. Expensive instruments and personal belongings should always be left in designated spaces. Items left unattended or not stored correctly unfortunately can be tampered with, with little to no recourse in finding the responsible party.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

All students will be evaluated in an ongoing manner throughout the school year. Most of the time this will be done informally as a large group, but sometimes a small group or even individuals may be asked to play a certain passage to check for mastery. This helps to ensure that each member of the ensemble understands the concepts presented in rehearsal.

Students will also be asked to play individually for assessment and seating purposes (i.e. playing tests for a grade). Evaluations may be audio or video-recorded during class time or at home. Specific instructions for performance evaluations will be given, and all school policies regarding late or make-up work will be followed in the event of absence.

FINGERNAIL LENGTH

Fingernails should be trimmed so that the pad of the fingertip can easily make contact with the string. This is necessary to facilitate playing in tune. Students whose fingernails are not kept at an appropriate length will lose points off their grade and may be prevented from participating in class or performances until the student returns with an appropriate fingernail length.

GRADING POLICIES

Orchestra will be recorded on your permanent records as academic credit. This is a performance-based class, and performance and progress in class are the primary areas in which students will be assessed. **Students are expected to practice at home to reinforce concepts presented in class.** How much practice is dependent on the student's ability level and focus during their practice time. By the high school level, students should be good managers of their practice time and know how to plan and problem-solve during a practice session.

A student's grade is made up of the following components:

PROFESSIONAL DEMEANOR

Personal responsibility and teamwork are very important in an orchestra, just as it is in a community or society. For this reason, it will also be counted as part of the student's grade. A musician's positive attitude, preparedness for rehearsals, and participation (professional demeanor) is very important in order to have an orchestra that will excel and grow in quality throughout the year. **A STUDENT WITHOUT AN INSTRUMENT OR MUSIC IN CLASS WILL LOSE POINTS FROM THEIR GRADE FOR EACH INFRACTION.** Students may earn extra credit by attending recitals and concerts containing orchestral string instruments. Students should bring in programs signed by a parent for verification. These points will not be added if the student habitually forgets their instrument.

PLAYING TESTS

Students will be expected to play by themselves periodically during each quarter for assessment and/or seating. Playing exams may contain excerpts from the literature, technique books, scales, or rhythm patterns and may be live or recorded by video or audio. Observed performance during class (correct notes, style, bowing, etc.) will also be considered.

WRITTEN/ELECTRONIC ASSIGNMENTS

Traditional "pencil and paper" or electronic assignments may be given to supplement instruction. Students should follow the teacher's instructions as to how to complete and turn these in. Credit for late and make-up assignments will be handled as stated in the school handbook.

CONCERTS

Concerts are a ***required*** part of the Orchestra program. They are not only an opportunity for the students and teachers to evaluate musical progress, but they also serve as a common performance goal and let the students share the music with their families and friends. Just as a member of the football team is expected to play at every game, members of the orchestra are expected to follow through with this commitment to the ensemble.

A concert and performance calendar is at the front of this parent guide. ***Please post these dates on your calendar.*** School activity conflicts will be handled on an individual basis and should be worked out prior to the concert. Parents should contact the orchestra director before the concert in the event of illness or emergency. **Unexcused absences will result in a zero**

for the concert grade. Grades will also be adjusted for the following infractions: tardiness, uniform violations, forgotten music, forgotten instrument, and unprofessional behavior.

AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS

It is occasionally necessary to call extra after-school rehearsals. Failure to attend these after school rehearsals may affect a student's grade and/or seating. As much advance warning time as possible will be given for extra called rehearsals.

FULL ORCHESTRA REHEARSALS

Full orchestra rehearsals will take place after school in the band room at Conway High School several days in December and January from 3:45-5:30 pm until the Full Orchestra Concert. See the calendar at the beginning of this parent guide for the exact rehearsal dates. Students should make arrangements in advance to avoid conflicts with other activities. **An after-school job is not a valid excuse.** Failure to attend these after-school rehearsals will affect a student's grade and seating. Requests for excused absences due to legitimate school-related conflicts must be submitted IN WRITING and APPROVED by the director prior to the rehearsal. Excused absences will be considered on an individual basis.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

Scholastic eligibility for participation in orchestra events will be consistent with the current Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Guidelines. All 10th, 11th & 12th graders must pass (4) courses and have a 2.0 GPA. If they pass four courses but don't have a 2.0 GPA they must attend SIP classes. Info on this class will come out shortly after the beginning of the year. If a student misses a class they automatically become ineligible. In addition, students must not have any unexcused absences or disciplinary action that results in suspension. No ineligible student will be permitted to participate in interscholastic orchestra events. Ineligibility will also prevent a student from receiving an award and from traveling with the orchestra to out-of-state performances.

STUDENTS MUST MAINTAIN A PASSING GRADE IN ORCHESTRA EACH SEMESTER IN ORDER TO CONTINUE ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAM. A STUDENT WHO FAILS A SEMESTER OF ORCHESTRA WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Uniform concert dress is very important to the professional appearance of the orchestra. At the current time, the uniform code does not require identical dresses or jackets. To keep this flexibility, students should follow concert dress guidelines closely. Grades will be adjusted for students out of uniform (see grading procedures). If you have any problems purchasing uniforms, please inform an orchestra director immediately. If your child was enrolled in high school orchestra last year and already has a formal uniform, please check now to see that it still fits. Don't wait until the night of the concert to find out if their pants are long enough!!

FORMAL CONCERT DRESS

Women: Formal black. Dressy or semi-formal floor- or ankle-length black dresses, skirts, or slacks; black hose; black close-toed dress shoes; black blouses with sleeves at least 3/4 length. No sleeveless, spaghetti straps, strapless, or backless dresses. A dressy black wrap, shawl, jacket, or sweater may be worn over a garment with sleeves that are too short. No flashy or distracting jewelry. Midriff must be covered front and back when playing.

Men: Tuxedo. Black tuxedo jacket; white pleated tuxedo shirt; black cummerbund; solid black bow tie; black tuxedo pants with stripe; black dress socks; black dress shoes. No tailcoats or sport coats, and no plain black dress pants. *Check with Paul Morrell Formalwear, 120 S. Victory, Little Rock at 501-374-8899 – they sell used rental tuxes in excellent condition.*

STUDENTS SHOULD PULL LONG HAIR BACK AND OUT OF THEIR FACE SO THEY CAN SEE THEIR CONDUCTOR AND SO THEIR AUDIENCE CAN SEE THEM.

INFORMAL CONCERT DRESS

Women: Conservative black blouses or dresses, skirts, or slacks, hose, and dress shoes

Men: black slacks and black dress shirts, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Orchestra T-shirts and long **blue jeans** may also be worn for some events, depending on audience

CONWAY ORCHESTRA T-SHIRTS

All students will be asked to purchase a Conway Orchestra t-shirt. Wearing these shirts promotes unity within the group and is our informal concert uniform. If your child already has one, make sure it still fits and is in good condition at the beginning of the school year.

CHS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Students will be auditioned during the first few weeks of school and a select Chamber Orchestra will be formed from the top players on each instrument. The decision of the director as to membership in the group will be final. This chamber ensemble will pull out from the large group several times each week. Membership in this ensemble is a privilege. Failure to maintain a high standard of musicianship and/or attend rehearsals and performances will result in removal from the Chamber Orchestra.

SEATING SYSTEM

Every orchestra class is a mix of students with a wide variety of ability and commitment levels. In this program, every student is expected to play to the best of their individual ability and commitment, where each is a valued member of the team and important to the overall success of the orchestra.

Competitive ranked seating creates a situation where “many persons must lose in order for a few to win.” The orchestra program aims to continue its tradition of replacing hostile competition between peers with teamwork. For this purpose, a flexible seating system will typically be used, just as many college and professional orchestras do. This system allows the orchestra to sound its best by placing strong players all around the orchestra, not just in stands closest to the conductor.

This approach satisfies both the competitive and the non-competitive student. Strong players who are very serious about orchestra are given the opportunity to lead their section and their peers around them by their example. Students who are happy just to be a part of the orchestra are seated in non-hierarchical order in complementary pairs. Seating in complimentary pairs allows students to learn from each other.

Every student is given the opportunity to give a significant contribution to

their group because their importance is not attached to a chair. Because our students understand that the success of each individual contributes to the success of the group, the students themselves foster an environment where they help each other succeed.

Section leaders with advanced playing skills should keep in mind that maturity, behavior, and leadership skills are also considered in the selection and seating process. Seniority is not a consideration for seating.

FUNDRAISING

"LA FIESTA ORQUESTA" TACO SUPPER

The annual "La Fiesta Orquesta" Taco Supper is our primary fundraiser for the year. All proceeds from the Taco Supper are used to provide things beyond music and instruments for the Orchestra such as camp scholarships, trips, awards, concert receptions, and other incidentals. Taco Supper is in late Fall and will feature all Conway orchestra students performing in an informal setting. We serve a meal to over 1,000 people in a single night in addition to hosting the concerts and a silent auction. The concert itself is free, and tickets for the meal may be purchased in advance or at the door. We will need lots of parental help both prior to the Taco Supper and during the supper itself (it takes over 100 parent volunteers to pull off a night like this!). Please watch for and return the Taco Supper volunteer form as soon as you receive it. At the high school level, Taco Supper ticket sales are the primary way for students to fundraise all or part of the cost of their Spring orchestra trip (see below). High schoolers are also expected to help with setup and teardown for the event.

PROGRAM AD SALES

Students will have the opportunity to sell ads for our formal concert programs. Local businesses and individuals will be able to purchase space in our program and support the Conway orchestra program. A portion of ad sale revenue will be credited toward the student's trip account. Details will be distributed in class.

CHS ORCHESTRA SPRING TRIP

The CHS Orchestra competes in an adjudicated festival and attends a symphony concert in the spring of each school year. The orchestra program

covers about half of each student's cost in an effort to keep the expense for you as minimal as possible. The trip's cost includes transportation, hotel, one night's dinner, symphony tickets, and most of the other activities that weekend. Other meals and incidentals are not included. It is expected that each high school orchestra student goes on the trip, as we are a team that relies on the entire group in order to be successful.

Students are given the opportunity to sell program ads and "La Fiesta Orquesta" Taco Supper tickets to fundraise all or part of the cost of their trip. A letter of intent detailing the student's account balance, including funds raised, will be sent home in early November so students are aware of their financial obligation for the trip. This must be returned signed by a parent or guardian, regardless of intent to attend the trip.

Payment will be broken up into three monthly installments. The first payment is a \$150 non-refundable deposit. A student who does not pay the deposit will be considered non-attending, after which point they may not be added on to the trip roster. Students who notify their orchestra director of cancellation before January 1 will receive a refund for any additional payments made. Students who cancel after January 1 are financially responsible for the full cost of the trip (\$350) REGARDLESS of their attendance.

There will also be a mandatory parent meeting in the weeks leading up to the trip in order to discuss the discipline procedures and the itinerary. Parents must make arrangements to attend one of several meetings and have all forms and paperwork turned in or students will not be allowed to participate in the trip.

Scholastic eligibility for participation in the trip is consistent with the current Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Guidelines. All high school students must pass (4) courses and have a 2.0 GPA. If they pass four courses but don't have a 2.0 GPA they can attend SIP classes. This class meets each Wednesday for 100 minutes. If a student misses a class they automatically become ineligible. In addition, students must have no unexcused absences or disciplinary action that results in suspension.

THE TRIP IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. STUDENTS WHO ARE ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE OR HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE SCHOOL MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE TRIP. ALL SCHOOL RULES APPLY ON OVERNIGHT TRIPS. SERIOUS

VIOLATIONS OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS BEING SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY AND AT THEIR OWN COST.

AWARDS

The following awards are presented by the Conway Public Schools Orchestra program each year:

HONOR BARS AND CERTIFICATES:

Presented to CHS juniors and seniors who have earned at least 8 points and already have letters. Points must be earned in at least two different categories. Concert attendance is mandatory to receive an Honor Bar. See next page for details.

CONWAY HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA LETTERS:

Presented to 10th-12th graders who have earned at least 8 points for the first time.

SENIOR PLAQUE:

Presented to all graduating seniors in recognition of their commitment to orchestra.

JAMIE LEA STANTON MEMORIAL AWARD:

This award is presented to one student at CHS who, in the opinion of the directors, best preserves Jamie's memory by reflecting her ability to get along with everyone, volunteer when help is needed, and play to the utmost of her ability while a member of the orchestra.

KEITH MULBERRY MEMORIAL AWARD:

This award is presented to one student at CHS who, in the opinion of the directors, best preserves Keith's memory through his or her dedication to the orchestra, love of music, and lively, energetic, and fun-loving spirit.

OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN AWARD (pin and certificate):

A student must earn at least the number of points required for an Honor Bar or Letter and show a positive and professional influence on the orchestra.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR ORCHESTRA:

This award will be presented to the tenth grade student who best represents the orchestra based on fulfillment of the Honor Bar qualifications, professional attitude, and positive contribution to the orchestra, as decided by the members of the CHS Orchestra. It consists of a permanent wall plaque for the orchestra room with each recipient's name, and an individual plaque for the recipient.

NATIONAL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA AWARD:

This award will be presented to the senior who best represents the orchestra based on fulfillment of the Outstanding Musician Award qualifications, professional attitude, and positive contribution to the orchestra, as decided by members of the CHS Orchestra. It consists of a permanent wall plaque for the orchestra room that contains each recipient's name, as well as a pin, certificate, and engraved desk piece for the recipient.

LEGACY OF MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP:

This award has been established in honor of Mrs. Fournier and Mrs. Winter, long-time orchestra teachers in Conway, whose passion and dedication to the orchestra program during her tenure were transformative. This scholarship will be presented to one graduating senior who is planning to major or minor in music in college.

SCHOLASTIC INELIGIBILITY, FAILURE TO ATTEND REQUIRED REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES, OR NOT MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF PROFESSIONAL DEMEANOR MAY RESULT IN A STUDENT NOT RECEIVING AN AWARD.

POINTS SYSTEM FOR EARNING AWARDS

POINTS MUST BE EARNED IN AT LEAST TWO AREAS

All-Region Orchestra:

Tryout for All-Region	1 point
All-Region alternate	1 point
All-Region member	2 points
All-Region principal	3 points

Region points will not be awarded until the student auditions for All-State. School conflicts will be considered.

All-State Orchestra:

Audition for All-State	1 point
All-State alternate	1 point
All-State member	2 points
All-State principal	3 points

Region & State Solo and Ensemble Contest (maximum 3 entries):

Rating of I	2 points each
Rating of II	1 point each

School-Related Ensembles:

Jazz Band	1 point
CHS Pit Orchestra (Musical)	2 points
Extra group performances	1 point per performance

Other Auditioned Orchestras:

ASYO Academy/Youth Orchestra	2 points each semester
CHS Chamber Orchestra	2 points each semester

Private Lessons 1 point each 9 weeks

Extracurricular Performances

Performance of solo or ensemble at church, recitals, etc. (max. 4 performances) 1 point per performance
(Program must be turned in with parent signature)

Summer Activities (prior to current school year):

String Camp	1 point
Weekly private lessons	1 point

Orchestra community service 1 point per service

CHS STUDENTS MUST EARN 8 POINTS IN AT LEAST TWO CATEGORIES TO QUALIFY FOR AN AWARD

EXTRA PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Students who are enrolled in the Conway High School Orchestra have the opportunity to perform in the following extracurricular organizations, which will also count toward their award points.

SOUTH REGION ORCHESTRA CLINIC

An orchestra of students who audition from the southern half of Arkansas. Consists of a Saturday audition in the fall, with the clinic occurring on Friday and all day Saturday one to two weeks later. Participants in the South Region Orchestra are expected to audition for the Arkansas All-State Orchestra.

ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA

Members of the South and North Region Orchestras are re-auditioned the first Saturday in February. Students selected to participate are bused to the Hot Springs Convention Center to participate in rehearsals and perform a

final concert on the following Saturday afternoon in conjunction with the ASBOA Convention and All-State bands and choir. Meal and hotel expenses are paid by the Music Department.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE ASSESSMENT

In the Spring of each year, individuals and small groups of students perform prepared accompanied solos and chamber music before a judge who rates it from I - V. Award medals are presented for ratings of superior (I) and excellent (II). The judge's comment sheets are given to all participants. Students desiring a superior rating must play with a pianist if the composition was written for one. Recipients of a I rating whose compositions are on the required music list are eligible to participate in the State Solo and Ensemble Contest in May.

ARKANSAS SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Students can audition for and participate in the Arkansas Symphony Academy and Youth Orchestras in Little Rock, sponsored by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Both of these groups utilize winds, brass, and percussion as well. Private lessons are required for these organizations, and members are eligible for lesson scholarships. For more information and to set up an audition time, please contact Barbara Burroughs at 501-666-1761, extension 116, or bburroughs@arkansassymphony.org.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INSTRUMENT CARE

- Loosen the bow hair and wipe off any rosin dust after playing.
- Instruments are very sensitive to heat and cold. Avoid extremes of temperature.
- Instruments can sometimes open at the seams, especially in winter. Bring it to school to be sent off for repair. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIX IT YOURSELF!!!**
- Since they are made of wood, be careful of banging instruments into things when transporting. Also, do not put weight on the instrument!!
- Extra strings, rosin, and other supplies are available from your orchestra director at cost as a convenience. Your director will let you know how much each item is.
- An orchestra teacher can usually handle small repairs (broken strings or fallen bridges) at school for the cost of the replacement part. Bring the

instrument to school and let the teachers decide what repairs must be made.

- **Please DO NOT take your instrument to a shop for a broken string!!! Directors can fix that very quickly for you!**

INSTRUMENT UPGRADES

Students should upgrade the quality of their instruments and bows by the beginning of the 10th grade, if not sooner. At the very least, all high school orchestra members should have replaced Super-Sensitive strings with Dominant strings or their equivalent. Students are encouraged to progress to higher quality instruments for a more mature tone. Additionally, bows should be upgraded to help improve the tone quality and technical refinement available to the student. Strings should be replaced yearly and bows should be rehaired at least every two years. For suggestions on where to find these items, contact an orchestra teacher.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are strongly recommended for all Conway Orchestra students because they allow students to progress at their own pace and to work on solo repertoire that will increase their individual skill level. Almost all Conway Senior High students who have been awarded college music scholarships have studied privately during their public school days. Many highly-qualified teachers live in the area, including many Arkansas Symphony musicians. Please request a list of private teachers any time during the year.

SENIOR SOLOS

Any senior who is currently enrolled in private lessons and has been a member of the All-State Orchestra has the opportunity to perform a solo on one of the concerts. They should discuss repertoire selection with their private teacher and orchestra director during the spring of their junior year to make sure it is appropriate and that the orchestral accompaniment is available. They may have to play it for approval by early fall of their senior year.

CADET PROGRAM

The Cadet Program serves as a vehicle to provide younger string students with individual tutoring by advanced high school students. Selection of tutors will be based on the following criteria: current Conway Orchestra

member, studying with a private teacher, member of All-State Orchestra, and a positive influence on the orchestra program in the Conway Schools. Eligible students will be notified of their acceptance as Cadet Teachers in the spring of each year.

SUMMER STRING CAMPS

UCA, the Arkansas Symphony, Wildwood Academy for Music and the Arts, the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival, and the University of Arkansas all sponsor summer string programs that are a wonderful experience for all of our students. Intensive work on Region audition music, ensembles, and sectionals with master teachers provide an enriching experience and encourage students to advance their playing. The Conway Orchestra program awards a limited number of camp scholarships to help defray some of the cost. Scholarship applications will be available in late April or early May, along with details about each camp.

OPUS

In musical terms, an opus is a work or composition. In the context of the Conway Public Schools Orchestras, **OPUS** is **Orchestra Parents United in Support**. OPUS exists to ensure our children receive the full benefit of their orchestra experience. Quite simply, this is achieved by the volunteer efforts of parents like you working in concert with the orchestra teachers and other equally dedicated parents. Providing transportation for large instruments, helping set up the reception after a concert, and assisting at Taco Supper go a long way to the continued success of the orchestra program. Orchestra is a wonderful and enriching experience for our children not only as musicians, but also as young adults, and they will carry it with them long after they graduate from High School. Through the dedication of their teachers and most importantly, YOU THE PARENTS, the Conway Orchestra Program will continue to be a positive, strong, and successful experience for our children.

GO TO CONCERTS!

Students need to know you think that they and their membership and success in orchestra are important. One way you can show this is by attending their concerts throughout their school music careers. It is the experience of your orchestra directors that in spite of the fact that they will tell you otherwise, even the High School students need to have someone in the audience that is there just for them! Out of respect for the performers, please stay for the entire concert – no one likes playing for an empty house!

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra: Performances are in Little Rock. Student tickets are free on Sunday afternoons with a paying adult!!!

Conway Symphony Orchestra: The CSO plays several concerts a year here in Conway at the Reynolds Performance Hall on the UCA campus.