

August 1, 2024

Dear Students and Parents of the Class of 2027,

We hope this letter finds you well rested and ready to start the 2024/25 school year with the class and advisors on our upcoming Ropes Course Adventure! What better way to start the school year than having fun with your friends outdoors under a beautiful redwood canopy.

Last May, we received your confirmation and permission forms to participate this year on Thursday, August 15. To maximize the experience for everyone on this day, we have contracted with three accredited providers whose facilities are in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Breaking up the class into three sites will result in a full day of exciting activities for everyone. For those unfamiliar, a ropes course program uses physical and mental challenges to encourage collaboration, teamwork, mutual support, and personal goal-setting. During the day, you and your advisors will work together to develop communication, leadership, and team-building skills that will help set the tone for the year and bring the class together. Of course, all activities are “challenge by choice.” While you are encouraged to participate in each activity, the final decision is always yours.

We understand that circumstances may have changed since we received your confirmation and permission form in May to participate on Thursday, August 17. If you have not let us know whether or not you will be attending, **and** we have not heard from a parent or guardian regarding the reason for the absence, the absence from the class trip will result in an unexcused absence, as the class trip is an official school day. You may contact Kelley McCoy if you have any questions at kelley.mccoy@harker.org. She is always happy to help.

Important Departure Time/Location Information: We will travel by bus, with departures from the Saratoga Campus, starting at 7:30 a.m. **As a result, students should be dropped off no later than 7:15 a.m. Students will return to campus between 4:00-5:00 p.m. Please coordinate transportation so that a ride is available as soon as you return.** A complete breakfast at home is highly recommended to start the day. When you arrive, you will check in with your advisory group before boarding the bus. Lunch will be provided on the trip. Please be dressed for climbing when you board the bus in the morning, as time will be limited upon our arrival at the ropes course site. Please review the next page, which includes information on how to dress and what to bring.

We are excited about the many benefits to individuals and the class these annual trips offer. Please contact either of us by e-mail, Kevin Williamson at kevin.williamson@harker.org or Brian Larsen at brian.larsen@harker.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Williamson
Dean of Students
(408)345-9604

Brian Larsen
Dean, Class of 2027
(408)345-9206

Ropes Courses - What to Wear & Bring

Clothing should be...

- Loose
- Comfortable
- Durable
- Long pants preferred, but long shorts acceptable
- Suited for the weather
- Hats & sunglasses can help on hot days and keep the sun out of your eyes

Shoes must be...

- **CLOSED TOE SHOES ARE MANDATORY (NO SANDALS)**
- Gym shoes are best
- Low-heeled shoes
- Have laces or Velcro to keep them secure
- Any person not wearing shoes that meet these standards might not be allowed to participate

Other considerations...

- Jewelry and watches are best left at home for the day
- Bring your own full water bottle
- Bring sunscreen
- Dress in layers as it can be chilly under the redwood canopy