

Dear Grade 9 Parents,

Welcome to Harker's Upper School! We are here to provide your student with an excellent academic program and, just as importantly, a strong support system to help guide them through the next four years. The Advisory Program provides the cornerstone that fosters this supportive environment. With this in mind, we offer a brief overview of our program:

- Advisory groups consist of eight to ten students and one faculty advisor
- Advisory groups stay together throughout four years of high school
- A class dean oversees the advisory program in each grade
- Class and advisory meetings are check-in times that occur twice weekly
- Each grade 9 advisory will include two qualified Juniors or Seniors mentors (Link Crew)

Our Advisory Program aims to educate adolescents beyond what they are learning in the classroom and focuses on the following areas:

- Health and Wellness
- School Spirit and Community
- Character and Ethics
- Support and Advocacy
- Downtime

Advisors engage their advisory in pursuits that provide a break from academic stress by offering fun, relaxing, and meaningful activities every week. Advisories participate in class competitions held throughout the year and participate in class trips that give students and faculty experiences beyond academic class time.

Advisories also engage in meaningful discussions on how to make good choices. The program topics include conversations on ethical behavior, moral character, and life skills, such as the importance of getting a good night's sleep and proper nutrition. Over the course of a student's four years, these advisory relationships develop into a significant and meaningful part of the Harker experience.

Your child will find out who their advisor is at the Grade 9 Field Day on Thursday, August 21st. We encourage you to maintain an open line of communication with your child's advisor throughout the next four years.

On behalf of your student's Advisor, Academic Counselor, and Class Dean, know that we are all here to help make the transition to high school a smooth one for your student, so don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best wishes for a successful school year,

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