

August 7, 2026

Dear Grade 9 Students of the Class of 2030,

Welcome to the Upper School! By now, I trust that you have your books and supplies and are looking forward to starting your high school journey. Grade 9 Orientation, held on Thursday, August 20th, will introduce you to the Harker Upper School experience and will be the first opportunity to meet the class dean, your advisor, and Link Crew. Now will be the time for old classmates to reunite and welcome our many new students to the class and school. We are thrilled you are joining us this year!

Please arrive between 10:00 and 10:15 a.m. for check-in at the Saratoga campus. You will see registration tables between the RPAC and Zhang Gym, which is our larger gym. The Auxillary Gym will open at 10:30 a.m. for our most important activity, where you will be introduced to your new advisory groups! From here, your new advisory team will meet on Davis Field for several challenging activities provided by *Apex Adventures*. We will break for lunch together and then return to the field for the remainder of the afternoon. The day concludes at 3:15 p.m., so plan on having your parents pick you up between 3:15-3:30 p.m.

Be forewarned: while dress is casual on this day, you will get wet! Please wear your bathing suit under your clothes and bring a towel as well as a dry set of clothing to change into at the end of the day, as you will be under the sprinklers as the day progresses. Gym shoes will also be required since you will be in our Athletic Center. Finally, we will be outside most of the time, so a water bottle, sunscreen, and a hat are always a good idea.

On behalf of your Grade 9 Class Dean, Ms. Fernandez, your Link Crew leaders, and your advisor, I look forward to welcoming you at Grade 9 Orientation for 2026–27!

Best wishes for a most successful and exciting school year,

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