

Welcome to the Elementary Division!



Grades 3-5 Orientation

Kristin Giammona

Elementary Division Head



Brian Yager

Head of School







Jennifer Gargano

Assistant Head of School, Academics



Course Customization



Optimized Learning

K-12 curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire as students move through the grades.

We customize your child's experience to optimize each student's learning potential.

How to Help Your Child Succeed

- Encourage a growth mindset
 - Each student has unique talents and interests
- Honor all Harker students
 - Honor your child (and their peers) for who they are and where they are in their development.
 - Honor student privacy
 - Keep in mind: “Comparison is the thief of joy.”
- Trust the process
 - We consider the larger, long-term picture. Please do, as well.

*Thank
You!*

Parent Education Opportunities

- Common Ground Speaker Series
 - In-Person dates coming soon.
 - Recordings of past sessions can be found in the portal under the Counseling/LIFE tile.
- ISACS Parents Series of one-hour webinars
 - September 25th: School Skills with Lisa Damour.
 - October 28th: The Great Rewiring of Childhood with Jonathan Haidt.
 - January 13th: Elevating Discipline with the Brain in Mind with Tina Payne Bryson.
 - And more . . .



Registration information available on the Harker Calendar.

Andrea Ledford

Director, Bucknall Enrichment &
Supervision Team (BEST)



Walid Fahmy

Dean of Students



Uniforms



- Friday Free Dress: approx. twice a month
- Full Dress Uniform: field trips and special occasions/assemblies
- Check calendar on parent portal and eWeekly.

Take a minute at home to review the uniform guidelines; let me know if you have any questions!

Harker SPIRIT Day

- Every Tuesday - Oct. 4
- Wear Favorite Harker Gear
 - Shirt
 - Hoodie
 - Harker Sport Jersey
 - Any Harker-Branded Attire
- Free Dress Bottoms



GO EAGLES, GO!

Lost & Found Reminders

- **Label** ALL items with first and last name.
- Lost & Found is collected in each play area.

- Clearly labeled items are returned to students once a week.



- Please check items that come home. You may find it belongs to someone else.
- Unlabeled items move to uniform exchange after a month. Come shop for FREE!!!

Grades 3-5 Eagle Buddies

- Exciting three-year program
- Goal: Develop relationships and build community
- Students in grades 3-5 are grouped with students in grades 10-12



Bucknall Traffic

- Safety first
- Follow directions of security team and BEST staff
- Drive slowly
- Our neighborhood: please practice kindness, patience, and consideration
- Pick up and drop off at youngest child's loading zone.

K, Gr. 4 & 5

Front Loading Zone
Bucknall Road



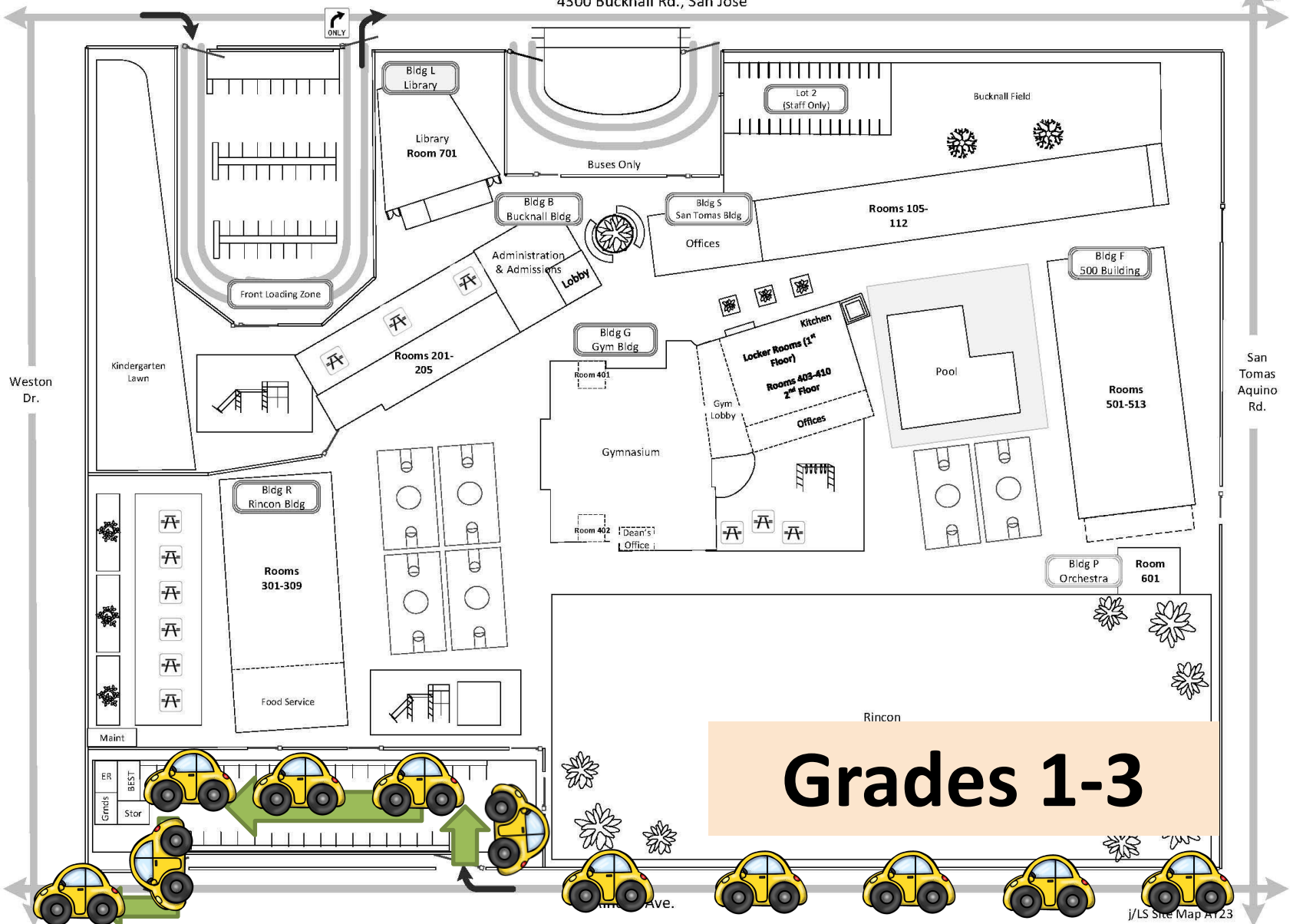
Gr. 1, 2 & 3

Back Loading Zone
Rincon Avenue

Bucknall Rd.

Site Map
Harker Lower School
4300 Bucknall Rd., San Jose

Bucknall Rd.



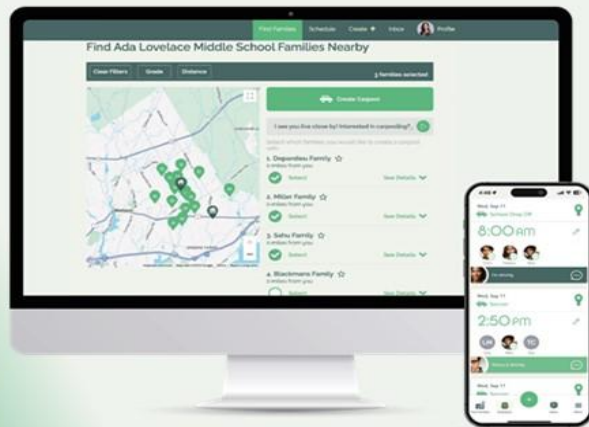




Carpool to Harker with GoKid!

Connect with Harker families who live near you

The Harker School has partnered with **GoKid** to offer parents an easy way to find and organize car pools. With **GoKid**, parents can connect with nearby school families, set up carpools to school and after-school activities, and manage carpools in real-time - all on the web or on the **GoKid app**. **GoKid** helps save parents time and gas, reduce traffic, and supports the school's sustainability efforts.



Coming to families this summer!

Preview a Walkthrough



How It Works

- **Getting Started** – You will receive an invitation email over the summer to create a GoKid account linked to The Harker School.
- **Find Families** – Use the school map to find nearby families and start up a chat about carpooling.
- **Create Carpools** – Easily create and manage car pools with school families.
- **Track & Manage** – Follow your child's car pool in real-time for added peace of mind.

Excited Partnership – We are thrilled to announce our new partnership with **GoKid**, a leading carpooling platform for schools.

Easy Access – Parents should have already received a welcome email directly from GoKid with login details.

- If you haven't received one, please contact **Brianna Alday (brianna.alday@harker.org)** for assistance.

More Information – The flyer is available in the **Parent Portal** under the **Transportation** tile, which also includes a helpful **introductory video** walkthrough.

Convenient Features – With GoKid, families can:

- Find and connect with nearby Harker families.
- Organize and manage carpools to school and after-school activities.
- Track carpool progress in real time for peace of mind.

Sustainability Focus – This program is part of Harker's broader commitment to sustainability:

- Reduces traffic congestion on and around campus.
- Saves families time and gas.
- Supports our school's environmental initiatives.

General Tips for Loading Zones

- **Safety and Efficiency!**
- Drive up slowly along curb.
- Parents, please stay in car.
 - BEST staff members will approach and welcome you.
- Students walk along fence.
- Use youngest student's loading zone.



Drop-Off: Morning Loading Zone

- Morning Loading Zones: 1 lane ONLY
- Have your child ready to go: backpacks packed, shoes on, kisses shared, etc.
- BEST is there to assist getting your child and their belongings out of the car quickly and efficiently.



Your support is appreciated!

Morning Loading Zone

- K-3 are assisted in getting out of the car.
- Grades 4-5 can unload themselves as long as they are in loading zone, along the curb.
- Parking: Make sure child is accompanied until safely on campus, on a sidewalk. Always use the crosswalk - it models safety to our children.

Pickup: After-School Loading Zones

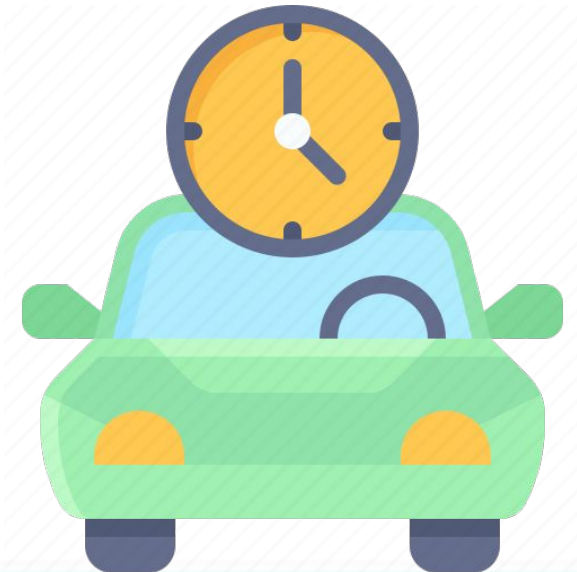
- **Important:** Have your placard with you or a photo of it on your phone (BEST hack).



- When you arrive, loading zone attendant will scan the QR code.
- BEST staff supervising the children will work on getting your child to the loading zone promptly
 - In a class? Please park!

Pickup: Schedule Ahead

- Text **408.215.7756** and follow the prompts to notify us about your ETA
- Start the process before your car arrives on campus; your child is more likely to be ready to go!
- Please try this service, as it provides efficiency in the LZ's.



Pickup Times

- Loading zones begin at the end of the school day (3:25 p.m. or 3:10 p.m. on Wednesdays).
 - Front Loading Zone closes at 5:30 p.m.
 - Back Loading Zone, on Rincon Ave., closes at 6 p.m. (when supervision ends)

If you need to pick up your child at dismissal, it is better to schedule an early pick-up with the office.

Pickup: Final Tips

- Communicate your plans/pickup time with your child ahead of time.
- Be aware of your child's after-school schedule.
- Don't forget those placards and yellow lanyards!



Thank you for your patience!

BEST Team

Excited to care for and guide the students throughout the day!

Morning | Recess | Lunch | After School



Rebecca Gallegos
"Ms. Gallegos"
Administrative
Assistant



Caitlin Bengel
"Miss Caite"
Kindergarten Division
Lead



Brett Miller
"Mr. Brett"
Grades 1-3
Division Lead



Nav Kaur
"Miss Nav"
Grades 4-5
Division Lead

After-School Class Updates



- Please let us know if your child will miss their class
- After 3pm call our BEST phone at **(408) 639-0389**
- Adds, Drops, & Questions - email
LSBESTreg@harker.org
- Classes with fees: charges will post to student accounts
 - Cancellation requests must be in BEFORE the second class meeting or you will be responsible for the associated fees.

Theresa “Smitty” Smith

Lower & Middle School Athletic Director



Lower School Athletics



People to Know:

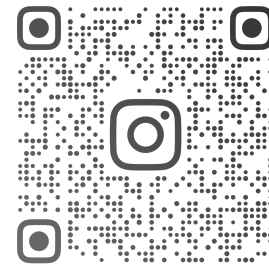
- Theresa Smith: LS/MS Athletic Director (Union)
- Karriem Stinson: LS/MS Assistant Athletic Director (Bucknall)
- Brighid Wood: LS/MS Assistant Athletic Director (Union)



Karriem Stinson



Brighid Wood



HARKERATHLETICS

- Grade 4: Intramural - exception basketball & track
- Grade 5: Interscholastic - compete in West Bay Athletic League.

Registration: Quarterly on CampBrain. Coincides with BEST registration.



Fall: Swimming, Softball, Flag Football
Early Winter: Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer
Late Winter: Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer
Spring: Track, Baseball, Girls Volleyball

Practice Offered After School: Mon.-Fri. (Swim Tu/Th)

Practice time Gr. 4 and 5: 3:45-5:00 pm (Track 4-5:15pm)

Mandatory Practices: Tues. and Wed.

Exceptions:

Swimming mandatory practices: Tu./Th.: Beg./Beg.-Int.: 3:45-4:30 pm
Int.-Adv./Adv.: 4:45-5:30 pm

Track: student can attend any two days per week

Game Days: Tues.-Fri.



**After-School Fall Sports Begin: Thurs., Aug. 28
(swim assessment)**

**Adds and Drops allowed through Wed., Sept. 3 for
flag football, softball and swimming**

Please contact the athletics department directly for
adds and drops.

Registration questions can be directed to Brighid
Wood at brighid.wood@harker.org

Go Eagles!

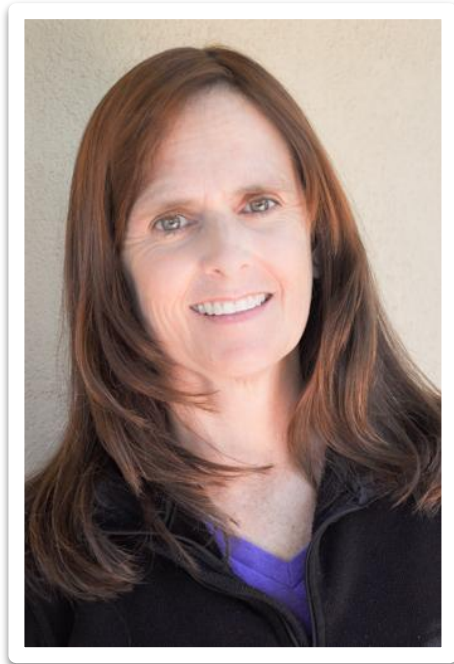
Laura Lang-Ree

Director of Performing Arts, K-12



Gr. 4-5 Performing Arts

People to Know:



Gail Palmer

Lower School Lead Teacher

K-8 Dance Director

Music classes during the academic day and continue after school:

Performing Arts in the Academic Day:

- Grade 4 music
- Grade 5 music and acting
- Physical education dance: three weeks a year attend a dance class with our dance teachers



Performing Arts Productions and Ensembles after school:

Dance Program:

- Grade level dance classes & specialty dance classes
- Dance Concert: performs in May 29 & 30
- Dance Fusion: 4-6 dance team by audition only Thurs., Aug. 28, 3:30 p.m.

Vocal Music Program:

- Bucknall Choir, Fri. 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Instrumental Music:

- Offered thru the BEST program

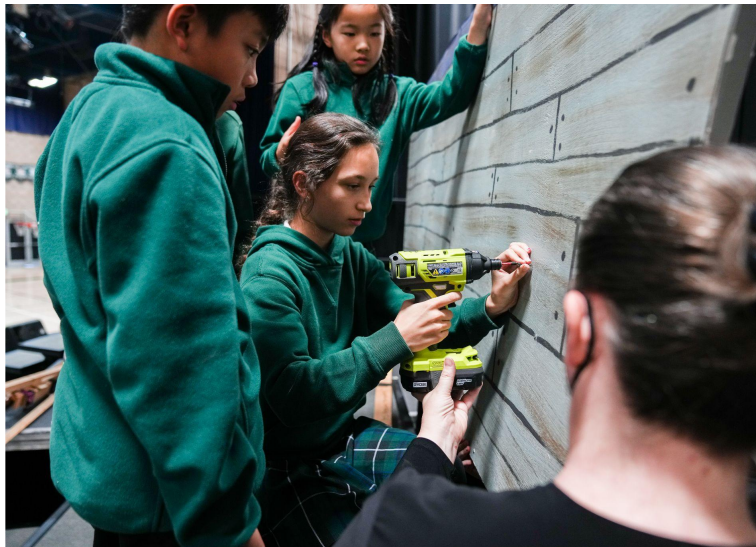


Theater & Musical Theater Programs:

Grade 5 show, auditions and rehearses in class, performs January

Technical Theater Program:

Technical Theater and Fun with Fabrics classes and crew opportunities for fifth graders



Productions

- **Grade 4 students:** Big Assembly Day
- **Grade 5 students:** Grade 5 Show
- **Bucknall Choir:** Harker Day, United Voices, winter/spring concerts
- **Dancers:** end-of-year dance concert
- **Dance Fusion:** performances throughout the year

Technical theater students crew all!





June Two-Week Theater Intensive

July Three-Week Musical Theater Intensive


Lisa Diffenderfer

Learning, Innovation & Design Director,
TK-12








Update Your Contact Info

The Harker School

 **HARKER®**

Est. 1893 • K-12 College Prep

Welcome, Lisa. This is your parent portal.	Portal Home	Preschool	Lower	Middle	Upper
SHOW PORTAL MENU					
<div> Announcements</div> <div>Upper school fall sports mandatory meeting</div> <div>The Grade 6 Musicale and LS Dance Concert now available on Harker VOD .</div> <div>Senior Showcase and MS spring musical now on Harker VOD</div> <div>Sports report Show more 19</div>	<div> Resources</div> <div>RECENTLY POSTED</div> <div>Lower School Free/Special Dress Days</div> <div>Parent Volunteer Reimbursement Form</div> <div>Middle School Student Clubs</div> <div>Middle School Software Request Form</div> <div>Show more</div> <div>Chamber Choir Audition Information &</div>	<div> School Calendar</div>	<div> Magnus Medical Info</div>	<div> Family & Student Information</div>	

Update Your Contact Info

Upper Division

Monday 10/07/2019

Student Directory

Update your family settings in the Student Directory [here](#)

To update your household and contact information, [please click here.](#)

To access current year Report Cards and Gradebook Detail Reports, please [click here.](#)


Return to the [Parent Portal](#) for the school [calendar](#).

Questions? Email: FamilyInfo@harker.org







familyinfo@harker.org

Caregiver/Student Tech Help Site

The Harker School

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<div>Welcome, Lisa. This is your parent portal.</div> <div>SHOW PORTAL MENU</div>	Portal Home	TK	<div>#1</div> <div>Lower</div>	Middle	Upper
<div> Lower School Announcements</div> <div>Head of School: Start of School Update</div> <div>Dynamics and Concert Choir feat. Harmonics, "Telephone Hour" performance available</div> <div>Fall Textbook Purchasing - July 12</div> <div>Introducing the Harker Cooking Show!</div> <div>Show more</div>	<div>#2</div> <div> Lower School Resources</div> <div>RECENTLY POSTED</div> <div>Lower School Caregiver and Student Help Site</div> <div>Vacations, Holidays & Key Dates 21-22</div> <div>Bucknall Classroom Map</div> <div>Lower School Show more</div>	<div> Schoology</div>	<div> Lower School Calendar</div>	<div> Lower School Staff Directory</div>	<div> Harker News: Lower School</div>

Caregiver/Student Tech Help Site

Lower School Resources

#1 Type "help site"

help site

Title ▲ #2	Campus ▲	Tags ▲	Updated ▼	Download ▲
Lower School Caregiver and Student Help Site	Lower School	How-Tos, Schoology, Seesaw, Links	08/12/2021	

Caregiver/Student Tech Help Site



Navigating Schoology as a Parent

Lisa Diffenderfer



For PARENTS:
Viewing Your Child's Schoology Courses

Schoology Basic Navigation for Students

Lisa Diffenderfer



For STUDENTS:
Navigating Schoology

Reminders for Elementary Parents



- Harker email (Gr. 4-5) for academics only
- Email is a walled garden
- Check Schoology for homework assignments
- AI Guidelines

Grade 5 Chromebooks

- No additional costs!
- Chargers stay at home
- Report damage immediately
- No personal accounts at school
- Take them home to charge
- Web filter at school, but not at home



lisa.diffenderfer@harker.org

Debra Nott

Director of Health Services



NO More COVID-19 Protocol!

COVID is now treated like any other respiratory illness

Fever present: Stay home until fever free for 24 hours without taking medication (Advil, Motrin or Tylenol)

No fever: Return to school when

- Symptoms are mild and resolving
- Student is able to participate in learning
- Not coughing too much

[The Harker School] New Treatment Note for Joseph Diffenderfer



The Harker School <service@magnushealthportal.com>

Lisa Diffenderfer

Friday, August 9, 2019 at 12:54 PM

[Show Details](#)

Click on this link.

Joseph Diffenderfer has a new treatment note that has been shared with you.

To view please log in to your account by clicking the link below

<http://resources.harker.org/link/magnus-student-medical-records/>



Accessing Health Info

LOGIN

Please provide your username and password to log in:

Username

lisad



Password

.....



Login

Welcome Catherine.

This is your parent portal.

▼ SHOW PORTAL MENU

Portal Home

TK

Lower

Middle

Upper



Announcements

Videos Now Available: Orchestra
Concerts, Signing Ceremony,
Grandparents' Day, Choral Concert and
More

Ogre Awards and Just Dance Videos Now
Available

Change in COVID-19 Isolation Policy
▼ Show more



Resources

RECENTLY POSTED

Lower/Middle School Athletic Handbook

Upper School Athletic Handbook

Lower School Student/Parent Handbook

TK Parent Handbook

▼ Show more
Middle School Student/Parent Handbook



Harker Digital
Archives



School Calendar



Family & Student Information



Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion



Magnus Medical
Info

Back-to-School Hub 2024



Hover your cursor over your name and then click on Communications.



Welcome, [Lisa Diffenderfer](#)



[Communications](#)

Front Desk



[Change Credentials](#)



[Logout](#)



Welcome, [Lisa Diffenderfer](#) ▾



[Need Help?](#)



Communications

[Go to Front Desk](#)



Print



Delete

All Messages

<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra Nott	Debra Nott Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer	Aug 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debbie Fields	Debbie Fields Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer	Jul 26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra Nott	Debra Nott Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer	Mar 26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alanna Conrad	Alanna Conrad Shared a Treatment Note with you about Drew Diffenderfer	Aug 31



Welcome, [Lisa Diffenderfer](#) ▾



[Need Help?](#)



Communications

[Go to Front Desk](#)



Print



Delete

All Messages



Debra Nott

Debra Nott Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer

Aug 9

Reason For Visit : Headache

Assessment : Temp 98.2. No signs of illness. No injury to the head.

Medication Administration : Tylenol -320mg

Treatment : Water

Other Treatment Given :

Other :

Disposition/Outcome : Returned to class

When did this happen? : Friday 08/09/2019 12:53 PM (5 mins)



Nurse's Phone Numbers



Office: 408.553.0562

Cell: 408.891.9683



Kim Lobe

Director of Advancement



The Advancement Team



Supporting and enhancing:

- School Community
- School Pride
- Strong Tradition of Philanthropy



Our Patagonia Partnership!



Birch White

Outerwear



Nano Puff®

Warm, windproof and water-resistant, our Nano Puff® styles are made with 100% postconsumer recycled content.

They're insulated with lightweight and highly compressible 60-g Primaloft® Gold Insulation Eco and wrapped in a 100% recycled polyester shell and lining. Made in a Fair Trade Certified® factory. Imported.

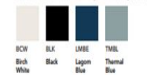
Men's Nano Puff® Jacket

\$299.00 / \$425.00 - \$55.00L Regular fit - 337 g (11.9 oz)



Women's Nano Puff® Jacket

\$299.00 / \$425.00 - \$55.00L Regular fit - 284 g (10.0 oz)



Men's Nano Puff® Hoody

\$299.00 / \$425.00 - \$55.00L Regular fit - 363 g (12.8 oz)



Women's Nano Puff® Hoody

\$299.00 / \$425.00 - \$55.00L Regular fit - 306 g (10.8 oz)



Men's Nano Puff® Vest

\$199.00 / \$425.00 - \$55.00L Regular fit - 227 g (8.0 oz)



Women's Nano Puff® Vest

\$199.00 / \$425.00 - \$55.00L Regular fit - 207 g (7.3 oz)



2024-25 Annual Fund

\$5 Million Dollars!



Matching Gifts!

**\$1.2
Million
Dollars!**



When We
Connect
we
THRIVE

An illustration of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other. The hands are colored with a gradient from blue at the wrist to purple and pink at the fingers. They are positioned between the words 'Connect' and 'we'.

Community and Volunteers:

Your Grade 3, 4 & 5 Room Parents

Grade 3: Dillon Rasmussen, Amy Ramsey, Ramya Anantharaman, Bindiya Linga, Charmaine D'Silva, Galina Titarenko

Grade 4: Michael Jordan, Melissa D'Souza, Chanchan Du, Mehdi Khalighi, Cindy Li, Hongwei Zhang

Grade 5: Mausami Dave, Tammy Hsiao, Joanne Dai, Yinghua Huang, Ying Wang, Audra Wytock

Community and Volunteers:

Your Grade 3, 4 & 5 Grade Grade Level Coordinators

- Plan grade level coffees
- Off Campus activities to bring the parent community together
- Support room parents and classroom teachers

Grade 3:

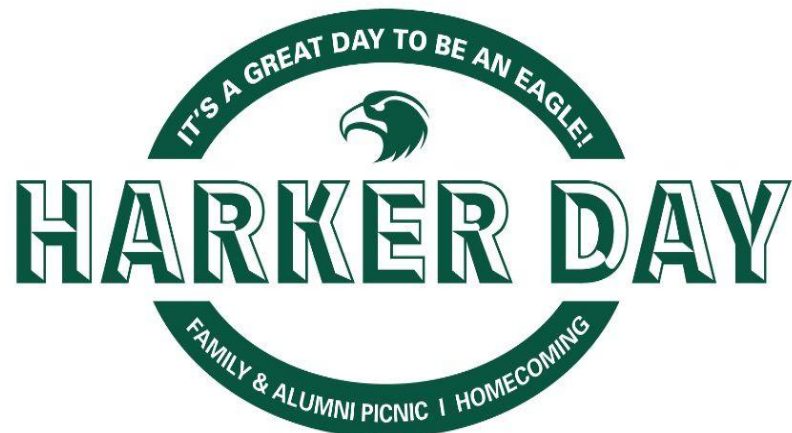
Rebecca Wang, Malavika
Jayasimha, Minjia Yu

Grade 4:

Citiali Solano, Sejal Daswani

Grade 5:

Yi Ding, Ashish Shah



Save the Date!

Sat., Oct. 4, 2025

- Homecoming
- Performing Arts Shows
- Volleyball & Water polo
- Kid Zone
- Sports Clinics
- 75th Family & Alumni Picnic
- Food trucks
- Alumni Parent Connect
- Student club activities
- Alumni reunion events

www.harker.org/about/events/harker-day



Fundraising:

Supporting our Students and Teachers

Annual Giving Update

(June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026)

- Harker would not be the school it is today were it not for our culture and long-standing tradition of Philanthropy.
- Please give/volunteer/participate in proportion to your ability to do so.
- Your generosity helps provide The Margin of Excellence we are known for: academics, extra-curriculars, facilities, and long-term financial security from endowed programs.

Supporting the Annual Fund

2024-25 Grade 3, 4 & 5 PDC Members

Grade 3: Jess Killips, Malavika Jayasimha, Deanna Broussard, Dorota D'Amato, Fan Ye, Diana Tian, Mandy Dhillon, Rebecca Wang

Grade 4: Fred Lo, Liang Li, Mowen Yang, Tani Bennett Xinyi Zhang, Yvonne Jiang, Rachel She, Cesar Atienza

Grade 5: Mausami Dave, Yinghua Huang, Joanne Dai, Lu Yang, Mu Qiao, Richard Thaik, Xiaolu Lei, Karen Li, Yi Ding, Anwesha Dey

HARKER® Annual Giving

Honor Roll of Donors:
Early September

Annual Fund mailing:
Late September

Pledge Week / Phone-a-thon:
Week of Oct. 7



Harker's Strategic Plan

Joe engages our strategic ecosystem of students, parents, alumni, alumni parents and creates interest, involvement and support for our strategic plan initiatives.



Joe Rosenthal
*Executive
Director of
Strategic
Initiatives*

Kristin Giammona

Elementary Division Head



Ralene Wasielewski

Academic Counselor



Attendance

Please call 408.553.0501 or email attendanceLS@harker.org to report an absence, late arrival, or early pickup.

Homeroom Locations

Grade 3:

Bo: Room 512

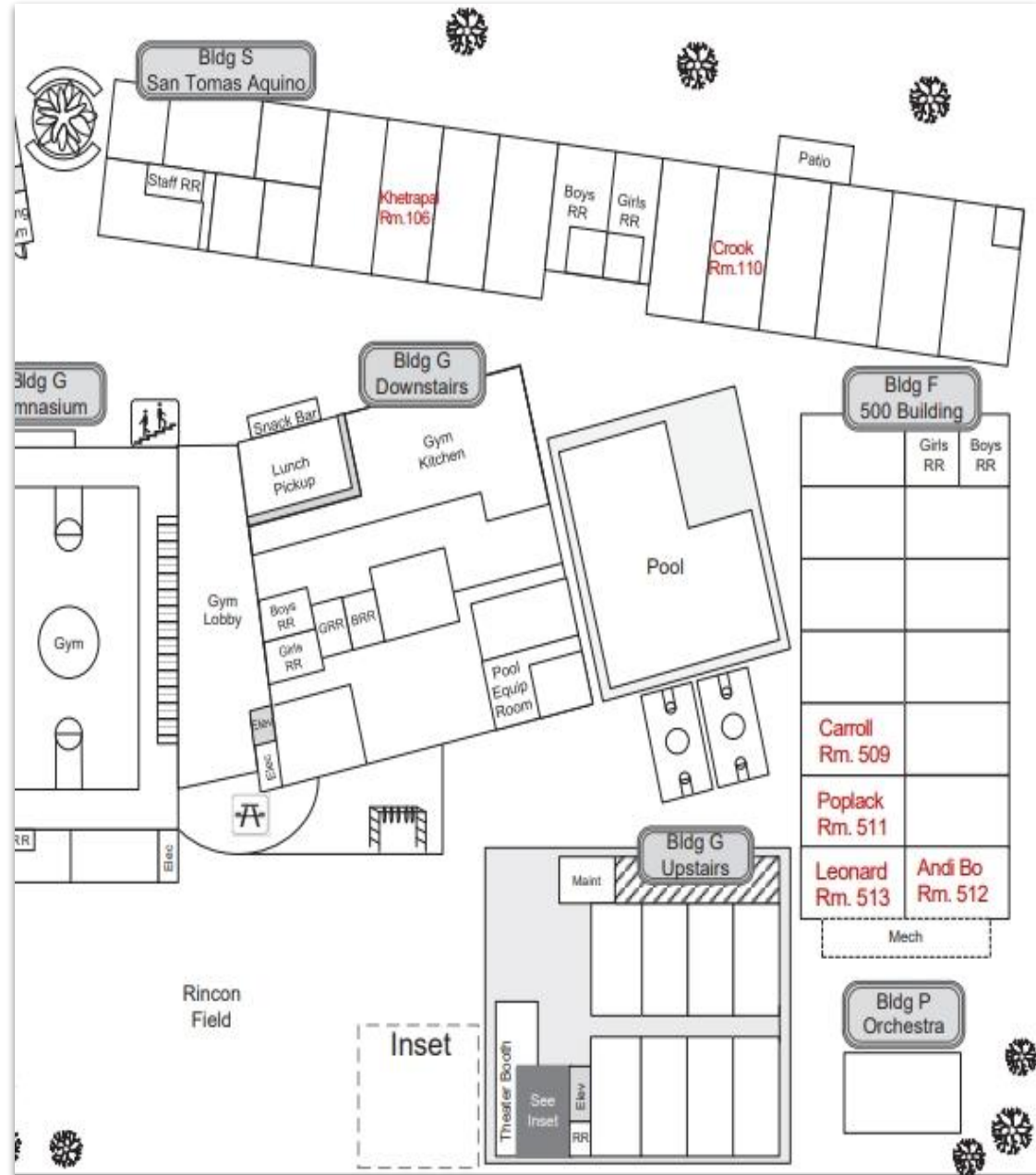
Carroll: Room 509

Crook: Room 110

Khetrapal: Room 106

Leonard: Room 513

Poplack: Room 511



Homeroom Locations

Grade 4:

Clifford: Room 501

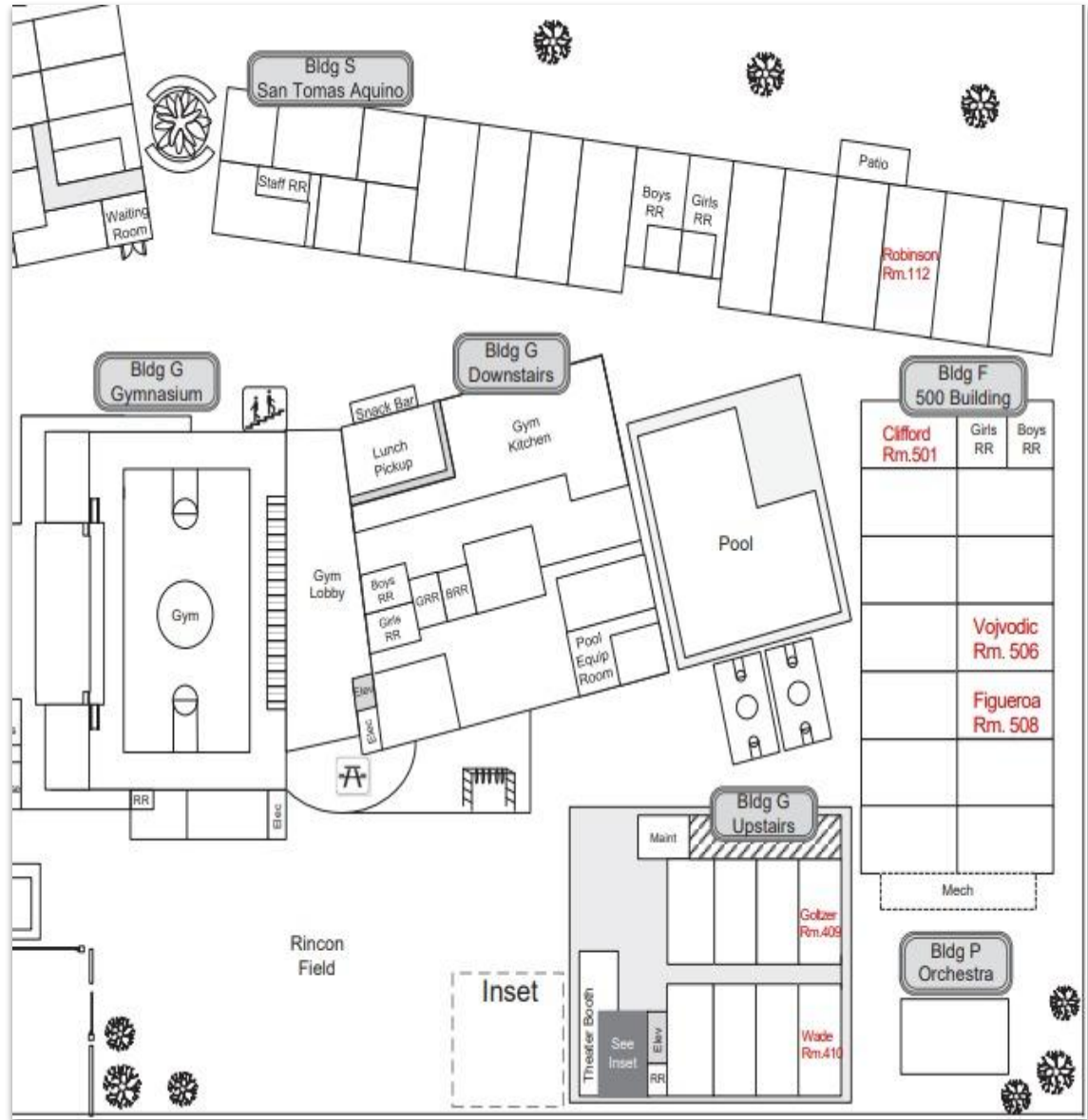
Figueroa: Room 508

Goltzer: Room 409

Robinson: Room 112

Vojvodic: Room 506

Wade: Room 410



Homeroom Locations

Grade 5:

Ashar: Room 503

Basu: Room 510

Crook: Room 502

Delfino: Room 408

Hopkins: Room 404

West: Room 405

