



HARKER®  
*K through Life®*

# 5<sup>TH</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> STEP UP

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WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL!



# **WELCOME**

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**KRISTIN GIAMMONA**  
**ELEMENTARY DIVISION HEAD**

# AGENDA AND SPEAKERS TODAY

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- Welcome – Evan Barth
- New campus for the students, and What you need to know about Middle School – Evan Barth
- Outside the classroom – Patricia Burrows
- MS Courses – Jennifer Gargano
- Learning Innovation and Design & Laptops – Elizabeth Brumbaugh
- MS Athletics – Theresa “Smitty” Smith
- Current year – Mr. Garcia and Ms. Giammona



# **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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*EVAN BARTH*  
*MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION HEAD*

# WHAT DOES NOT CHANGE... FROM LOWER TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

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- School mission
- Amazing, caring teachers
- Individual attention
- Great students

# WHAT *DOES* CHANGE... FROM LOWER TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

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- Lunch!
- Electives
- Clubs
- Freedom and Responsibility
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders!



# TRANSPORTATION

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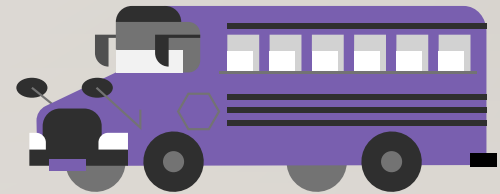
- Our use permit mandates a maximum number of trips (cars) during the peak morning and afternoon commute times
- We want to be good neighbors and have worked over the years to maintain good relationships
- There is a logistical inconvenience but there is community gain



# 3 WAYS TO COME TO SCHOOL

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1. Arrive by 7:30am (can be just one student in car)
2. Arrive by school shuttle/bus from one of a variety of pick-up points (sign-ups during the summer)
3. Arrive in a carpool with at least one other MS student



# DAILY SCHEDULE

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- Academic classes from 8:15am – 3:25pm
  - Office Hours to 3:40pm on Mon/Tues
  - We also have required Office Hours on Thursdays 10:35 – 11:05am
- Optional programs continue through 5pm
- 6pm campus closes – just like 5<sup>th</sup> grade

# QUESTION FROM YOU

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- How do we best prepare for adolescence and the changes when my child comes to the middle school?
  - Take advantage of moments you have together
  - Ask open questions
  - Expect more from your 6<sup>th</sup> grader, but be willing to help them get there



# **OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

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*PATRICIA LAI BURROWS*  
*MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT DIVISION HEAD*

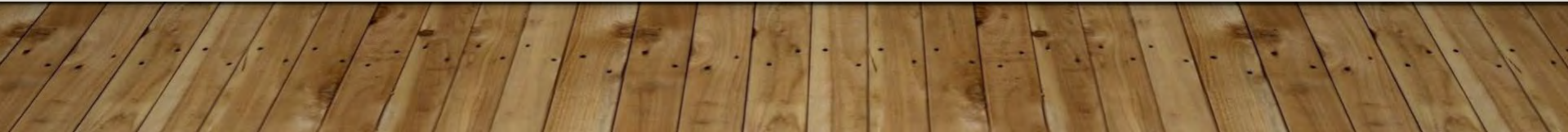


# BASE Program

**Programming designed specifically with the needs of middle school students in mind.**

Supervision of before-school, lunch, and after-school spaces

Registration for enrichment programs after school  
Supporting Fun and Spirit activities throughout the year





Students have the opportunity to create their own clubs as well.

It is an opportunity to explore interests beyond the classroom, socializing with students from other grades and with a variety of interests



Math Club  
Dungeons & Dragons  
Creative Writing Club  
Chess  
Chemistry Club  
Kpop Club  
Spirit Council  
Speech and Debate



Art Club  
Future Problem Solving Club  
GSA  
Middle School Newspaper  
**AND --- so much more**



# Advisory

*Character  
Strong*

**“Character Education isn’t more to add to the plate... it IS the plate!”**

What is advisory?

10-12 students are assigned to an advisory in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and they develop and grow together for all three years

Advisory provides a safe, secure and nurturing “home base” to the Middle School



# Belonging and Community

- **Campus DEI Leadership Team**
  - Professional Development
  - Workshops and Conferences
  - Community Action
- **Inclusion Focused Education**
  - Weekly Assemblies
  - Multicultural Celebrations
- **SEL/Character Education**
  - Character Strong
  - Advisory Program



**“Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists; it is making a new space, a better space for everyone.” - George Dei**





# DEVELOPING LEADERS AND A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

- Leadership Council
- Student Belonging Board
- LIFE Board
- MS Mentors
- Spirit Club
- MS Newspaper



# QUESTION FROM YOU

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- I heard good things from the student step-up day in December. Will the students have a chance to see the campus again before the start of school?
  - Yes! Take a summer class at the middle school
  - Yes! Our Orientation Day is Monday August 19<sup>th</sup>

# QUESTION FROM YOU

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- Are there opportunities for parents to volunteer at the middle school?
  - Yes! We will announce through Ruby Ramos for events like Halloween, cultural week, our annual cancer walk, etc.



# **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES**

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**JENNIFER GARGANO  
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL;  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

# CHOICES FOR NEXT YEAR

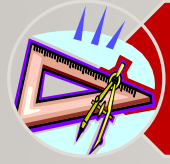
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**FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE**

**2 ELECTIVES  
(& A BACK-UP)**



\*Modern or Classical Language



\*Math



Earth Science



Ancient History



English



Physical Education & Health



**6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Core Classes**

**In addition to the 6 core classes,  
students *ALSO* take 2 electives**

**Elective Option 1**

**Semester 1**

**Elective Option 2**

**Semester 2**

**In addition to the 6 Core Classes and Electives,  
students take each of the following quarter classes . . .**

**Performing  
Arts:  
Music &  
Drama**

**Computer  
Science**

**Health**

**Study Hall**



# Math Sequence

5	6	7	8
P1	PreAlg Course A (C)	PreAlgebra B (C)	Algebra 1 (C)
P2	PreAlg Course A	PreAlgebra B Or PreAlgebra Honors	Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors
P3	Honors PreAlgebra	Honors Algebra 1	Honors Geometry

9	10	11	12
Geometry	Algebra 2	PreCalculus	Calculus*
Geometry or Honors Geometry	Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2	PreCalculus or Honors PreCalculus	AP Calc AB*
Honors Algebra 2	PreCalc Honors	AP Calc BC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Calc*

**\*\*Due to our customization & breadth of courses, there are many possible course paths not represented above.**

# Modern and Classical Language Options



Meets with the same regularity as all core courses.

Students have the option to change languages after 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

All 6<sup>th</sup> graders take a beginning level (1A) of their chosen language to fully understand the study of a new language.

# Elective Courses

**Elective Option 1**

**Semester 1**

**Elective Option 2**

**Semester 2**

# Elective Options

## Performing Arts

Choir (Dynamics)  
Instrumental Music  
(Orchestra | Band)  
Drama  
Tech Theatre

Introduction to  
Speech & Debate

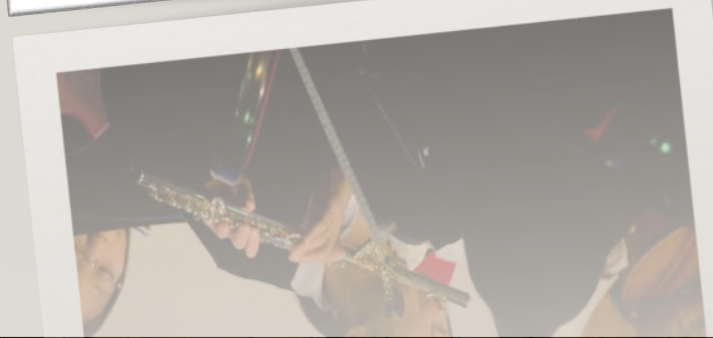
Visual Arts  
Ceramics  
Innovation Lab or  
Robotics  
Study Hall

*Students choose 2 electives in Gr.6,  
one for each semester.*

# Performing Arts Electives – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**The Performing Groups:**

**Instrumental Music (or  
Orchestra or Band) &  
Dynamics are year-long  
commitments.**



# Performing Arts – Programs After School

- Fall Play & Spring Musical
- Dance – Weekly Classes
- Dance Jamz (Dance Show)
- Dance Fusion



# CHOICES FOR NEXT YEAR

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**FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE**

**2 ELECTIVES  
(& A BACK-UP)**

- E-mail with elective course descriptions & link to Google form will be sent to you & your child on Tuesday 1/16
- Discuss options together and then your CHILD fills in the Google form with you watching
- Link requires your child's student login credentials!





# QUESTIONS FROM YOU

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- What is the biggest change in class structure and requirements from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - All classes meet three times each week
  - Foreign Language is like science, history, math, and English – assigns homework (up to 30 min/meeting) and gives assessments

# QUESTION ON CHANGES / ACADEMIC DETAILS (CONT.)

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- There should be no more than two tests on any day
- 6<sup>th</sup> graders do not take semester finals
- Schoology helps us stay organized on assignments and course content – but only students have access starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade

# QUESTIONS FROM YOU

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- How do placement changes happen from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>?
  - The same as 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. Your child's teachers approve changes based on work your child does all this year.
  - Changes will be communicated by the end of the school year.

# QUESTIONS FROM YOU

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- What are the after school options that are similar to the elective options?
  - Debate club meets after school
  - Students can help tech a show without being in the elective class
  - Math club meets after school
    - Only option in 6<sup>th</sup> grade
    - Elective class for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades



# LEARNING INNOVATION AND DESIGN

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ELIZABETH BRUMBAUGH  
*MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TK-12 DIRECTOR*



# MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING, INNOVATION, AND DESIGN (LID)

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Faculty Development



LID Center – Design  
for Social Good



Student Programs





# SCHOOLGY AND LAPTOPS

## BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE \*

\* THAT FITS TECH SPECIFICATIONS

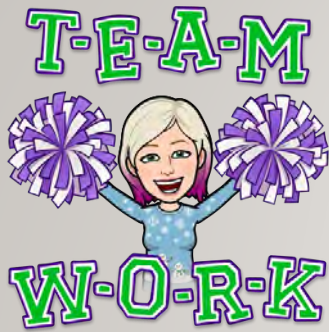
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- **SCHOOLGY**

- Increased Student Agency = No More Parent Accounts
  - Communication with your child is paramount
- Summer Online Self-Paced Course to learn the ins and outs of digital expectations and processes – invite to course comes in late June

- **LAPTOPS**

- Hardware specifications provided in communication home in spring (also available on Parent Portal > Resources) – Mac or PC only
- We provide on-site tech help and loaners if your laptop is out for repair



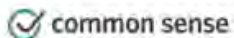
# DIGITAL FAMILY RESOURCES

- COMMON SENSE MEDIA

- Parent Portal → Counseling & LIFE →

DIGITAL FAMILY RESOURCES

- **Bookmark it!**
- Weekly tips that are relevant with useful hyperlinks (and an archive)



## TIP OF THE WEEK

January 3, 2023

### Co-viewing Family-Friendly Entertainment

Watching TV and movies is better together. Co-viewing with kids [has a range of benefits](#). It can even support their literacy skills and boost empathy. Start off the year by making memories with family-friendly movies, shows, podcasts, and games. Engage children of all ages by asking them open-ended questions about the content that you enjoy together. To get started, check out the "Talk to Your Kids About..." section in Common Sense Media's reviews of what you want to watch or play. You can also browse some of the [best entertainment of 2022 here](#).

[ARCHIVE](#)

## Digital Family Resources

### Timely Tips

"The Gift of Failure," the Dec. 1, 2022, ISACS webinar with Jessica Leahy, is available to watch until Jan. 31, 2023. [A link to resources from Jessica and the recording are on the ISACS page.](#)

[CSM digital family media and device agreements](#)

[Back to School Templates for Families](#)

[Institute for Social and Emotional Learning - Workshops and Events](#)

Child Mind Institute: [Helping Children Cope After a Traumatic Event](#)





# DIGITAL FAMILY RESOURCES

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- Are you waiting to give a smartphone to your child? Check out this rich resource to empower your choice
- Wait Until 8th
  - <https://www.waituntil8th.org/>
- Smartphone alternatives
  - <https://www.waituntil8th.org/devices>



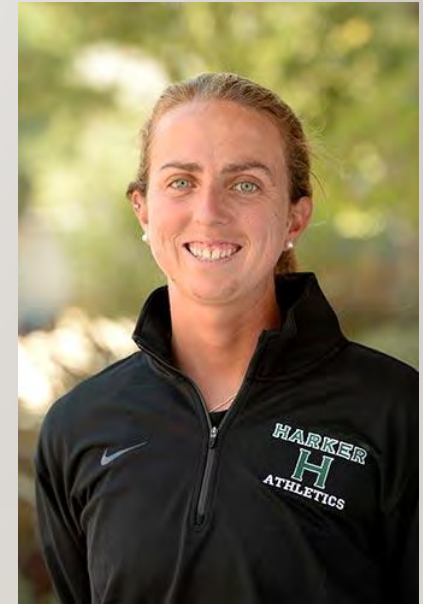
# MEET YOUR ATHLETICS TEAM



Theresa Smith  
LS/MS Athletic Director



Karriem Stinson  
LS/MS Asst. Athletic Director



Brigid Wood  
LS/MS Asst. to Athletic Director

# MORE SPORTS / MORE COMPETITION

**Fall:** flag football, softball, swimming, cross country\*, girls lacrosse\* and a golf tournament\*

**Early Winter:** boys basketball, girls soccer

**Late Winter:** girls basketball, boys soccer

**Spring:** girls volleyball, baseball, track, boys volleyball\*, tennis\*, water polo\* and a golf tournament\*

## SCHOOLS WE PLAY:

Keys	Kings Academy*
Nueva	Menlo*
Pinewood	Castilleja*
Sacred Heart	Crystal Springs*
St. Matt's	Priory*
Redeemer	Girls Middle
Woodland	School*
Highlands Christian	

\*sports and opponents added at the middle school

# MANDATORY PRACTICE DAYS

Practices are held Monday through Friday from 3:45-5 p.m.  
Practices held off campus generally run from 4-5:15pm.

All sports practices are mandatory on Tuesday, Wednesday, **and Friday.**

## *EXCEPTIONS:*

Swimming: **Monday/Wednesday/Friday**

VA Tennis: **Monday/Wednesday/Friday**

VB Tennis: **Tuesday/Thursday**

Track: **No Mandatory Days, must attend at least two days per week**

# ATHLETICS PRACTICE AND GAME VENUES

- Due to space and facility constraints some seasons we need to use alternative sites for games and/or practices
- Off Campus Sports:

- **Fall:**

- Softball (Blackford)
- Girls Lacrosse (Blackford)
- Cross Country (Blackford)
- Swimming (LS Campus)

- **Spring:**

- Baseball (Blackford)
- Track (Blackford)
- Tennis (Blackford)
- Water Polo (LS Campus and US Campus)



# ADDITIONAL ATHLETICS INFORMATION

- Sports seasons are 8 weeks long, and game schedules generally have 6 games
- We provide multiple levels of competition from beginner to advanced
- We have a "no-cut" policy EXCEPT for the golf tournament, sometimes tennis and sometimes swimming
- Accommodations are made for students who participate in sports outside of Harker so they are able to participate in sports at Harker as well. **This info MUST be communicated to the Athletic Director each season.**
- Our afterschool activities departments work together so that your child has the opportunity to participate in a few different activities.

# AND NOW BACK TO THIS YEAR!

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Mr. Garcia on Project in English

Ms. Giammona on upcoming, big events



# Within & Beyond

*Grade 5 English students are discovering how a genuine understanding of others begins with an understanding of oneself.*



## Within

Understanding Ourselves



## Beyond


Understanding Others



# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THIS YEAR

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- Thursday, February 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Show 6:00 PM
- Friday, February 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Show 6:00 PM
- Friday, February 23 – Seussical the Musical 9:30-12:30
- Tuesday, May 28 – 3:00-4:15 – Promotion Ceremony

A vibrant rainbow arches across a clear blue sky above a modern school building. The building features white siding, large windows, and a central entrance with a small tower. The scene is bright and optimistic.

We are looking forward to welcoming  
the class of 2031 to the middle school  
next year!

**Thank you!**

A close-up view of a wooden plank floor, showing the natural grain and knots of the wood.