

# Performing Arts



K-12 Program Overview



**HARKER**<sup>®</sup>  
*Est. 1893 • K-12 College Prep*



# Welcome!



*With Harker performing arts, you are joining much more than an internationally recognized arts program. You are joining a family, led by 19 full-time, highly-trained, dedicated faculty who are passionate about performing arts in every way.*

*Harker places a high value on the performing arts from K-12, as you'll see in this brochure. Check out our wide variety of classroom and production experiences from kindergarten through grade 12; take a look at the enriching ensembles that exist in music, dance and theater throughout a child's education. Harker's performing arts curriculum is incredibly robust, giving your child an education in the arts that is focused and sophisticated, and which will be challenging throughout his/her time at Harker.*



*With so many amazing things to do at Harker, why performing arts? Our students tell us that our classrooms are their "happy place" - where they go to play, explore and feel safe trying something out of their comfort zone. If they simply want to sing in a choir, or become a professional Broadway performer, we have the teachers and the program to help them achieve their dreams. Yearly, our students graduate from our Certificate Program into the top arts programs in the country. Many choose to minor in the arts, and still more enter college confident enough to audition for a campus ensemble as a casual participant.*



*So, join us. Check out the possibilities and see what's in store for you in Harker's performing arts program. The possibilities really are endless.*

*Laura Lang-Ree*

**Laura Lang-Ree**

**Director of Performing Arts K-12**

## Lower School



Harker has a strong passion for the arts, the foundation for which is the elementary performing arts classes and our after-school programs. We want our youngest children to become comfortable being on stage from the time they enter Harker, and to pursue whatever performing art they fall in love with.

Students in K-5 have a music class that meets once a week during the school day and includes vocal technique, theory and some fundamental theater skills. In grade 5 all students also have an acting class that meets once a week, where they learn valuable life skills and prepare for the much-anticipated grade 5 show. Students are introduced to our dance program within their P.E. classes, and there are additional opportunities for students to participate in dance in our after-school program and in our annual dance concert.



Students apply the skills they learn in class in yearly productions at every grade level, and there is also an extensive after-school arts program, including technical theater, dance class, jazz band, orchestra, string ensembles as well as private lessons, where students can continue to learn their crafts by participating in one of our productions or ensembles.



## **Productions**

Family & Alumni Picnic

Grade 1 Holiday Show

Grade 2-3 Holiday Show

Big Assembly Day

Winter concert

United Voices choral concert

Harker Gala

International welcome assemblies

Grade 5 Show

Kindergarten Show

Grandparents' Day

Spring concert

Dance Concert

Award ceremonies and tours off-campus throughout the year

Just Dance

Santana Row Tree Lighting

## **Ensembles** (all ensembles rehearse after school)

Dance Fusion (grades 4-6) \*

Orchestra \*\*

Jazz Band \*\*

Beginning and intermediate wind ensembles

Beginning and intermediate string ensemble

Bucknall Choir (grades 4-5)

## **Classes**

General music classes occur weekly (K-5)

Additional acting classes meet weekly (grade 5)

Dance classes (K-5) meet once a week after school and specialty classes in tap, modern, ballet, hip-hop, lyrical and jazz are offered all week long.

Technical theater

Wind, brass and string private lessons meet weekly after school



\* audition required

\*\* placement required



## Middle School



In the middle school, our curriculum and opportunities become more sophisticated to match the needs of our developing performers. Students who came from our lower school performing arts program, as well as students who are starting fresh as middle schoolers, will advance their skills as they aim for eventual participation in our most advanced program - the upper school's Conservatory. We offer a selection of courses during the academic day as electives and various after-school classes and productions so that students have choices to suit their particular schedules. Participation in the performing arts department is compatible with participation in other after-school programs such as debate, clubs and sports.



Grade 6 students continue to have weekly music and drama classes and various grade-level performances; they can also choose from electives in choir, drama, orchestra and technical theater, as we believe students are now ready to determine their artistic interests in addition to their required music and drama course work.



In grades 7-8, students have the opportunity to grow as artists in a variety of ways in elective classes, after-school offerings and audition-only groups. Additionally, all grade 7-8 students have an arts requirement which can be met through productions, ensembles, classes and workshops throughout the year. Participation in the choirs, acting, dance and vocal programs fold directly into the upper school Conservatory and students with a passion for performing learn the most in their middle school years by focusing in one or more ensembles.

## **Productions and Events**

Family & Alumni Picnic  
Homecoming  
Fall play  
Holiday tour  
Dynamics tour  
Harmonics tour  
Winter and spring jazz concerts  
Grade 6 WinterSong  
Winter and spring orchestra concerts  
United Voices choral concert  
Harker Gala  
Dance Jamz  
Spring musical  
Grade 6 Spring Sing  
International welcome assemblies  
Santana Row Tree Lighting  
Just Dance

## **Vocal Ensembles**

Dynamics (grade 6)  
Vivace (grades 7-8) \*  
Harmonics (grades 7-8) \*  
Concert Choir (grades 7-8)

## **Dance Ensembles**

Dance Fusion (grades 4-6  
boys & girls) \*  
Showstoppers (grades 7-8 girls) \*  
High Voltage (grades 7-8 boys) \*

## **Instrumental Ensembles**

Jazz Band (grades 6, 7 & 8)  
Orchestra (grades 6, 7 & 8)  
Chamber Ensembles (club or  
after school)

## **Courses**

Grade 6: Drama, Technical Theater  
Grades 7-8: Acting/Scene Study,  
Theater Production and Design  
Dance classes meet throughout  
the week after school in many  
genres including tap, modern,  
ballet, hip-hop, lyrical and jazz.

\* audition required



# Upper School

## Harker Conservatory



Harker's upper school performing arts department, the Harker Conservatory, offers broad programs in dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music, technical theater and musical theater. All of our arts experiences are offered in an environment where students can discover and nurture their own artistic affinities and find their creative potential. In addition to in-depth technique training, students develop self-confidence and responsibility, personal and artistic expression, listening skills and awareness, stage presence, creativity and teamwork.



A variety of elective offerings are augmented with a wide variety of after-school workshops and productions. The Conservatory produces 10 major productions each year, which draw audiences from throughout the community. Nearly 40 percent of the student body participates in the performing arts each year, guided by eight dedicated, full-time professionals.



Students wishing to have a more in-depth experience in the Conservatory, as well as students with a special passion for the arts, may consider joining our advanced Certificate Program, which is described in detail on the following pages.



## **Productions**

Family & Alumni Picnic  
Fall play  
Homecoming  
Fall choral concerts  
Holiday tours  
Santana Row Tree Lighting  
Student Directed Showcase  
Winter and spring orchestra  
concerts  
Dance production  
Just Dance  
Winter and spring jazz band  
concerts  
Harker Gala  
Spring choral concerts  
Spring musical  
Senior Showcase

## **Vocal Ensembles**

Bel Canto  
Camerata  
Cantilena  
Downbeat  
sus4

## **Dance Ensembles**

Harker Dance Company  
Kinetic Krew

## **Instrumental Music**

Orchestra  
Jazz Band  
Lab Band  
Chamber Ensembles (club)

## **Courses**

Dance classes meet throughout the week after school in many genres including tap, modern, ballet, hip-hop, lyrical and jazz.  
AP Music Theory  
Performance Practice for Instrumentalists  
Study of Music, Dance, Theater Arts (U.C.-required)  
Advanced Acting  
Advanced Scene Study  
Advanced Shakespeare Scene Study  
Vocal Interpretation  
Student Directed Showcase  
Technical Theater  
Choreography  
Dance Composition



# Upper School



## The Conservatory Certificate Program

The Certificate Program guides students through a comprehensive course of study in all of the disciplines (acting, dance, instrumental and vocal music, technical theater, musical theater) with special emphasis in the discipline of the student's choice.

## Who are Certificate Candidates?

Our certificate candidates have chosen the arts as either their sole non-academic focus, or as one of their top two passions in the upper school. Our students are also on the debate team, are athletes and participate in robotics. With planning, participation in two major Harker programs can be easily managed.



## Program Benefits

Since its inception, the certificate program has graduated many students who have been accepted to the top programs in their fields each year. Our graduates have matriculated to New York University's Steinhardt, Tisch and Clive Davis schools of music, USC's Thornton School of Music and Theater, Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music, UCLA theater and musical theater, Chapman's BFA and B.A. degrees at their College of Performing Arts, Chapman's Dodge film department and theater program, and the Rochester School of Film, to name but a few. Our program provides the best and the brightest in the arts with a training program that would be difficult to match in any high school setting. Students regularly tell us that they are, by far, the most prepared students in their college classes because of their work in the Conservatory, and especially the Certificate program. Our earliest graduates are now working as professionals in opera, dance, stage management, theater, musical theater, casting and arts management.



Another large group of our certificate candidates choose to minor in the arts, and many more simply continue to perform throughout college for fun, confident in their abilities and gaining the satisfaction of pursuing a hobby they love.

### **Certificate Program Overview**

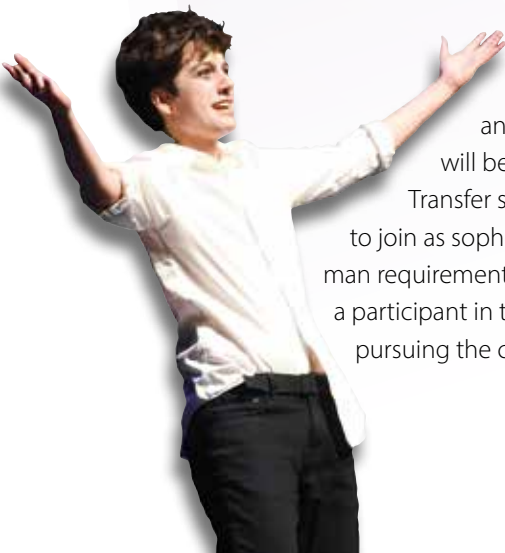
The certificate program guides students through a comprehensive course of study in all of the performing arts disciplines with special emphasis on the discipline of the student's choice. Students are led through a four-year course of study by a Conservatory mentor, and each year they take classes during the academic day, perform with an ensemble and often work on an after-school production, depending on their chosen path. For a detailed schedule of the requirements for each discipline, please check out our website information at [www.harker.org/conservatory](http://www.harker.org/conservatory).

The program culminates in the senior year with an impressive evening event, Senior Showcase, that includes an awards ceremony and performances by the new certificate graduates. The college counseling department includes an information sheet about the certificate program in the students' college application packets; the students themselves often supplement their applications with headshots, resumes and recordings, all overseen by their certificate mentor. Students going on to professional conservatories or specific arts programs will, with the guidance of their Conservatory mentor, prepare for live and/or recorded auditions.

### **Joining the Certificate Program**

Freshmen join the certificate program as apprentices. Sophomores and new students interested in joining will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Transfer students and Harker students wishing to join as sophomores must also complete all freshman requirements. Of course, you are welcome to be a participant in the Conservatory at any time, without pursuing the certificate program.





**HARKER**®  
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**The Harker School**

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