



Lower School

K - GRADE 5

PROGRAMS
2022-23

THE HARKER SCHOOL

PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS

K-GRADE 5 • 2021-22

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Information in this brochure represents our program for the previous academic year. The year your student enrolls, there may be slight changes to the program.

SCHOOL DAY

All students participate in two class periods of a language art class and one period of mathematics. Students are placed in language arts and math classes that are tailored to meet their individual needs so they can maximize their learning and thrive as they progress through the grades at The Harker School. Students also participate in a variety of specialty classes as noted in each grade level designation below.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students have a **Homeroom**, where subjects taught include social studies, science, handwriting and character development. The homeroom classes move together to various specialty classes. **Specialty classes** include library, art, music, P.E./health and computer skills.

KINDERGARTEN SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Circle Time
Language Arts
Recess
Math
Lunch & Recess
Science
Art
P.E.
Social Studies

In all grades, grouping by performance level in math and language arts allows us to meet the needs of individual students. Ongoing evaluation through the year ensures flexibility, and students are moved as necessary to ensure optimal learning.

GRADES 1-2

Students in grades 1-2 have a **homeroom**, where subjects taught include social studies, handwriting and character development. The homeroom classes move together to various specialty classes. **Specialty classes** include library, art, music, Spanish, P.E./health and computer science.

GRADES 1-2 SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Morning Business
Math
Language Arts
Recess
Language Arts
Music
Lunch & Recess
P.E.
Social Studies
Science

In all grades, grouping by performance level in math and language arts allows us to meet the needs of individual students. Ongoing evaluation through the year ensures flexibility, and students are moved as necessary to ensure optimal learning.

GRADES 3-5

Classes for students in grades 3-5 are **departmentalized**; students will move between their classes each period. Subjects in the weekly schedule include study skills, library, art, music, Spanish, math lab, character development, computer science, language arts, math, social studies and science.

GRADES 3-5 SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Homeroom
Science
Study Skills
Recess
Language Arts
Language Arts
Lunch
Math
Library
Art
P.E.

In all grades, grouping by performance level in math and language arts allows us to meet the needs of individual students. Ongoing evaluation through the year ensures flexibility, and students are moved as necessary to ensure optimal learning.

LANGUAGE ARTS

In all grades, grouping by performance level allows us to meet the needs of individual students. Ongoing evaluation through the year ensures flexibility, and students are moved as necessary to ensure optimal learning. A solid foundation in language fundamentals is established by utilizing an integrated approach to language arts that builds skills in the areas of speaking, listening, oral and written communication, vocabulary development, and grammar and mechanics.

Kindergarten-Grade 2:

Reading skills are developed using phonics and a literature-based program with a focus on comprehension and critical thinking. Teachers also read aloud to students, exposing them to a rich variety of genres. Thought-provoking discussions about the reading selections enhance comprehension, as does the introduction of literary components (plot, characterization, mood, the author's purpose).

Vocabulary development is an integral part of the

process. Writing skills involve instruction in both the mechanical process of forming letters and the gradual development of the ability to communicate through the written word. Grammar is taught both as part of the writing process and as an individually practiced skill.

Grades 3-5:

Reading, comprehension, grammar, vocabulary and writing (mechanics and composition) are the continuing components of the language arts curriculum. In addition to selections of poetry and nonfiction, students are reading longer books and novels. The foundations for literary analysis begun in the earlier grades are expanded and gradually become more sophisticated. Analysis of plot, character development, conflict, theme and the use of literary devices such as metaphor, simile, imagery and symbolism present opportunities for rich classroom discussion and eventually become topics of writing assignments as students' skills develop. Creative writing is an additional component of the curriculum.

READING SELECTIONS

Students read a variety of literature genres in the form of short stories, poetry and novels. All literature is chosen to be challenging, provide rich analysis, and to be reflective of Harker's diversity goals. Selections used for instruction reflect the diversity within and beyond

our community as "mirrors" of students' experiences and "windows" to share perspectives of others within the literature. Rotation of various reading selections is ongoing and evaluated yearly to provide current, relevant and engaging literature for students.

MATHEMATICS

As with language arts, students are placed in performance groups that allow them to learn and be challenged at a pace that is optimal for them. The groups remain flexible so students can move to a different performance group when appropriate. Since math is spiral in nature, there are some topics introduced at one grade level, but practiced and mastered at subsequent levels. All students will meet regularly for a math lab class where the focus is on using manipulatives and practicing problem-solving approaches that further understanding and allow for application of mathematical concepts.

The topics listed below for each grade level define the core concepts.

Our K-2 math program places an emphasis on number sense, problem-solving and mental math. Children also develop their computational fluency, with exercises to promote accuracy and speed in their basic facts.

Kindergarten:

Designed to provide a transition from the child's real-life experiences to thinking mathematically, kindergartners develop their understanding of math concepts through a variety of activities. They engage in daily lessons that include hands-on materials, group discussions and independent practice. A range of topics may include patterning, counting, coin value, shape recognition, and recognizing attributes of length, weight and time.

Grade 1:

A balance of logical reasoning, critical thinking and computation allow children to make a connection between their daily life experiences and math. Children deepen their understanding of previously learned concepts and examine new topics through hands-on activities and written exercises. A range of topics may include place value, describing attributes of 2-D and 3-D shapes, time, money, graphing, and standard/metric units of length, weight and liquid.

Grade 2:

Children extend their understanding of foundational skills and continue to strengthen previously learned concepts. Children use a variety of tools, develop varied strategies and use efficient methods to communicate their mathematical thinking. A range of topics may include using larger numbers, multi-digit addition/subtraction, multiplication/division, understanding fractions, identifying and measuring angles, calculating perimeter and area, and working with elapsed time.

Our grade 3-5 math program extends all of the concepts learned in the primary grades with a major focus on mastery of multiplication and division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Problem-solving is heavily emphasized both in oral and written form. As the students begin to increase their ability to think more abstractly, bar modeling (or whole and part model drawing) is emphasized as a major problem-solving strategy.

Grade 3:

Problem-solving in grade 3 is an increasingly important component of the mathematics curriculum. Strategies for problem-solving include drawing bar models to obtain solutions. There is review and extension of measurement, geometry, fractions, and computational operations including multi-digit multiplication and division. Addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers with regrouping and multiplication facts are mastered. Other topics include working with decimals, relating decimals to fractions, and common factors.

Grade 4:

Fourth grade mathematics emphasizes developing fluency with multiplication and division, while honing estimation strategies that allow students to find quotients using multi-digit dividends and divisors. Place value is revisited as decimal understanding and application is strengthened and expanded. Number theory is introduced and applied to the students' continued work with fractions and mixed numbers. Bar modeling is extended and used to express percent as well as to solve problems involving ratio and comparisons. Real-life problems are included throughout the year and geometry expands to include the study of surface area and volume.

Grade 5:

The concepts of fourth grade will be reinforced and taken to the next level in fifth grade. Major focus is on preparing the students for middle school with a solid mastery of all four operations on fractions and decimals, and a good working knowledge of percent. Major emphasis is on modeling proper format and technique when problem-solving and using number sense to check if solutions are reasonable. Depending on the performance group, students will practice introductory algebra skills and explore integer operations and the set of real numbers. They will also progress in their geometry exploration to solving complex problems involving overlapping plane figures and calculating surface area and volume of more complicated 3-D figures. Additional topics of study are data analysis, integer functions, and proportional thinking (especially as it relates to measurement conversion).

SCIENCE

Beginning in grade 1, science classes are taught by specialists with degrees in science and related fields. Hands-on exploration and an inquiry-based approach are the cornerstones of the program, incorporating the scientific method from the primary grades onward.

Kindergarten:

The program focuses on adding to and extending children's natural curiosity about the world in which they live through the following topics: animal habitats, changing seasons, dental health, endangered species, environmental awareness, five senses, plant life, the solar system, oceanography and weather patterns. The STEM specialist also meets with kindergartners once a week, introducing students to hands-on projects that develop critical thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Grade 1:

The program is hands-on oriented with a focus on physical and life sciences. Students are introduced to

the scientific method and then begin the study of solids and liquids. Students understand the properties of solids and liquids through simple experiments and activities. In the air and weather unit, students study about the water cycle, the clouds, and make simple weather instruments. Students learn about the general classification of animals with a focus on insects and their life cycles while raising ladybugs and butterflies. Students also complete an in-depth study about various animal adaptations through interactive lessons. While exploring the balance and motion unit, students balance objects on a Popsicle stick and build tops and roller coasters to gain a clear understanding of the concepts presented. The light and color unit is designed for students to gain an insight into the basic concepts of light and color. Students work and experiment with mirrors, color filters, and prisms. Throughout the year, the study of plants is used as a thematic unit, connecting plants to the other units taught. Students complete activities to learn about the structure of a seed, germination, what plants need to

grow, and how plants make and store food.

Grade 2:

The program allows students to continue advancing their knowledge of the scientific method. Through various topics in the natural sciences, students apply their understanding of this practice through interactive explorations, cooperative work, and data analysis. The curriculum this year includes a unit exploring the properties of water. Students learn about surface tension, density, temperature, changes in water, and water processes. Students also study a unit on the human skeletal system and its functions with the muscular system. The metric system is also emphasized this year as students hone their measurement skills while comparing the customary system widely used in the upper school with the international standard for measurement. A unit on magnetism and electricity is also explored as students discover Earth's magnetic field and various ways to construct their own circuits. Physics of sound is another topic studied as students learn about the properties of pitch and volume, how they can be modified, and how they are detected by the human ear. The STEM approach and hands-on experiences throughout the year allow the students a chance to not only build their academic skills but also their confidence in self-exploration and inquisition.

Grade 3:

The program focuses on many types of science including botany, zoology, geology and astronomy. After reviewing the scientific method, students learn about the plant life cycle through hands-on, interactive lessons. Activities include sprouting and observing seedlings, identifying plant parts, growing plants, observing how plants respond to different environments, and researching a native California plant. During our study of animals, students learn how to classify and categorize animals. Considerable time is spent learning about specific arthropods, as it is the largest invertebrate group. Students complete an in-depth study of several animals and create a variety of models to represent them. Throughout our study of the sun, moon, and stars, students make daily observations of the objects in the sky and identify the many predictable patterns. In addition, students learn about our solar system and the

planets within it. In our study of the earth, students learn about its structure and landforms. A variety of models are used and created to deepen understanding of the earth's structure and movements.

Grade 4:

This program focuses on exploring the physical world through physics and chemistry using the scientific method. After gaining a thorough understanding of Newton's Laws of Motion, students observe pendulum motion and the forces governing it. They also learn about frictional forces and how they influence everyday life. Students apply their knowledge to construct a variety of objects including simple machines and different types of bridges. In their study of magnetism and electricity, students build different forms of circuits using motors, bulbs, and switches. The nature of magnetism is explored and linked to the concept of electricity through the study of electromagnets and motors. In their investigation of the structure of matter, students explore the periodic table and learn about electrons, protons, and neutrons. By engaging in design challenges, students gain an understanding of how chemistry influences our environment. Throughout the year, students gain a thorough understanding of physical measurements through using appropriate tools to measure mass, volume, and density.

Grade 5:

The program focuses on biology, with an in-depth study of the origins and relationships of living things. Students use of the scientific method becomes more sophisticated as they design controlled experiments, use data to summarize and present results, and write lab reports. Students become skilled at using the microscope as a tool for viewing, describing, measuring and interpreting microscopic specimens and processes. Students learn to identify the parts of the cell and understand the cell as the basic unit of structure and function. In addition, students make the connection between structure and function as a tool for classification and the basis of adaptation and evolution of organisms. Using a classification key, students learn to classify organisms. Students also become skilled at dissecting preserved specimens both technically and in the identification and description of the various specimens.

SOCIAL STUDIES

As children grow, so does their awareness of the world and their place in it. The social studies curriculum supports that growth and development by gradually enlarging the parameters of study, focusing on both the cultural and historical aspects of the individual and society.

Kindergarten:

Students develop an awareness of their roles as citizens in a variety of communities. They engage in activities that provide opportunities for learning about the school, the neighborhood and the city. Units on citizen responsibilities

and civic duties, economics and transportation are incorporated. In addition, traditional American holidays and celebrations and those reflecting cultures represented in our diverse community are studied and observed. As part of the school community strand, students learn about similarities and differences between schools internationally. This topic culminates in a video conference with peers at our sister school in Japan.

Grade 1:

Students are introduced to map skills, landforms and the world beyond their immediate community. Students develop an awareness of and appreciation for the similarities and differences of people around the world as they participate in lessons that focus on the cultures, customs and unique qualities that distinguish the seven continents. Students learn about the daily life of those who live internationally, and participate in a global education project with a school in Saudi Arabia as part of those lessons. Students are also guided in developing the critical thinking skills that will facilitate their ability to participate successfully in class discussions and collaborative projects.

Grade 2:

Students “travel” through the five regions of the United States. They learn about the different landforms, climates, natural resources, landmarks, important people and early American history with each region. Additionally, students are introduced to and learn about patriotic symbols and their significance. As a final project, students research and present a state report, highlighting important information and interesting facts relating to a particular state.

Grade 3:

In this course, topics include California geography to the time of the first peoples, explorers and settlers, the

mission and rancho days, the Gold Rush, statehood, the transcontinental railroad, and agricultural advances, all interwoven with the thread of cultural diversity. Students are provided the opportunity to honor the history of the native Californians, such as the Muwekma Ohlone, and understand their importance to the history of our state.

To become informed, active participants in a representative democracy, students will also learn about the institutions and people who make decisions concerning their lives, their country, and the world. This government and civics curriculum will give an overview of the three branches of the federal government, as well as the state and local governments that consist of cities and communities.

Grade 4:

In this course, students will learn about the major components of world geography and world cultures. They will analyze the impact of physical and human geography on cultures in times past and present, and will examine our connections to the past and the ways in which local, regional and national governments and traditions have developed and left their marks on current societies. Students will learn to appreciate individual similarities and differences, as well as develop a global understanding to better prepare them to take their place as global citizens.

Grade 5:

In this course, students will engage in a thorough study of United States history. Students will study the events of early European exploration of the Americas and will learn about the long-lasting effects of European influence. Students will also learn about the U.S. as an emerging, independent nation, examining the U.S. from its independence up to the Civil War. During this course, students will also participate in a comprehensive study of the research process as they write a research paper about a famous American.

SPANISH

Spanish is introduced in grade 1 with the focus on developing listening skills and oral language, reflecting the way children acquire their first language. Songs and games are utilized as learning tools. In grade 2, more emphasis is placed on oral proficiency, and by grade 3 students begin to practice reading and writing in Spanish, though the focus is still on oral skills. There is continued emphasis on immersion in the language and the use of context clues to understand new words.

An increase in the importance of reading and writing occurs in grade 4, with written assignments and short written quizzes. Rules of grammar are introduced in grades 4-5, and students learn about the gender of nouns and adjectives and conjugation of verbs in the present tense.

Learning a language includes learning about the culture of the people who speak it, and a discussion of the Spanish holidays as well as games, songs and stories of the Hispanic culture enrich the lessons.

COMPUTER SCIENCE & SKILLS

Kindergarten:

Students are introduced to the names of a computer's parts, the uses of computers and how to handle hardware and software, hand placement on the keyboard, the use of special function keys (return, control, delete, etc.), mouse skills, and how to create, print and save simple files. Students will create thematic multimedia projects that reinforce concepts from kindergarten social studies and science classes. Projects will include original drawings and text. Students will also use various programs to practice logical reasoning, sequencing and problem-solving skills. Students will also learn programming fundamentals by programming a mini-robot called a BeeBot. Students will work as a team to move their BeeBot to a specific area on a game board, and will use the related iPad app to practice using directional language and algorithmic thinking.

Grade 1:

Students learn the names of a computer's parts, the uses of computers and how to handle hardware and software, proper keyboarding technique, the use of special function keys (return, control, delete, etc.), mouse skills, and how to create, print and save files. Students will create multimedia projects that incorporate original drawing, animation, text and video. Midway through the year, students will be introduced to programming fundamentals through an iPad app and corresponding manipulative called Osmo Coding. Finally, digital citizenship will be the focus of one class meeting.

Grade 2:

Students practice proper keyboarding technique while trying to improve their accuracy and speed. Throughout the course, students practice basic computer navigation (to and from files and applications on the hard drive). Students create a multimedia presentation that includes imported images, original drawings, text, animations and video. They will learn to export their project to view it as a slideshow or movie. Students will also learn programming fundamentals by programming a mini-robot called Dash. Students will use visual programming (also known as

blocky programming) to have Dash complete specific tasks. Finally, digital citizenship will be the focus of one class meeting. Second graders also have another digital citizenship lesson in their homeroom classes.

Grade 3:

Students use presentation software to create a presentation on the Gold Rush. Information Literacy is introduced and practiced in context of creating the Gold Rush presentation. Students also are introduced to online collaboration tools and will share their work with their teachers online. Keyboarding proficiency is emphasized throughout the trimester. Students will also learn programming fundamentals through online activities on Code.org. Digital citizenship will also be the focus of two class meetings.

Grade 4:

Students will learn basic network navigation, will practice keyboarding, and will create all elements of a video game simulation using a visual programming language. Digital Citizenship will also be the focus of two class meetings. Students will use robotics as a path to practice programming concepts. They will use visual programming and Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots to discover solutions to different challenges.

Grade 5:

Students begin to learn the basics of how common electronic devices work. Students will learn core concepts and will demonstrate their understanding through digitally drawings that include resistors, switches, buttons, LED lights, potentiometers, speakers, motors, breadboard, and a variety of sensors. Students will also build these circuits and program a microcontroller to use the sensors to measure environmental data and then make decisions based on that data. The culminating project will involve building and programming a remote-control robot from scratch using off-the-shelf materials such as wheels, motors and motor controllers. Two class lessons during the year will also focus on digital citizenship.

PERFORMING ARTS

General Information

At Harker, performing arts is a way of life, K-12. And nothing is more important to our program than nurturing our youngest performers at the lower school. From helping the shy child develop confidence and a love for music, to encouraging and challenging our most precocious singers, dancers and instrumentalists, our seven full-time professional performing arts teachers

provide a wealth of opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes, during the academic day and in our robust after-school program.

All students in K-5 participate in weekly general music classes. Lessons are designed using a three-dimensional approach: learning music literacy, learning about music, and experiencing music-making. Students continually

work to develop proper singing technique through vocal exercises and varied repertoire. Rhythm instruments, Orff instruments, recorders and keyboards are explored throughout the lower school years. Each year in music class all students prepare for a staged production. Kindergarten performs a mini-musical, grades 1, 2 and 3 participate in a holiday concert, grade 4 sings at Harker Day and Grandparents' Day, and grade 5 performs a full-length musical theater production. There are additional opportunities for students to participate in dance in the after-school program and in the annual dance production.

ACADEMIC DAY CLASSES

Kindergarten and Grade 1

In kindergarten and grade 1 music, students build pre-literacy skills to provide a solid foundation for deeper music learning in the following years. Students participate in eight musical workout activities during each music class: pitch exploration, song fragments, simple songs, arioso (child-created tunes), song tales, movement exploration, movement for form and expression, and movement with the beat. During these eight activities students develop their singing voices, learn to keep a steady beat, learn how beats are grouped in twos or threes, and use their imaginations to explore and respond to recorded music. During each year in music at Harker, students participate in a staged production to build comprehensive performing arts skills. In kindergarten, students participate in a spring production and in grade 1 students participate in a holiday show. Grade 2 and 3

Grade 2 and 3

In grades 2-3, students build on their solid musical foundation. Students are introduced to musical concepts aurally, which are later bonded to music notation symbols. Classes are designed using a three-dimensional approach: learning music literacy, learning about music, and experiencing music-making. In each lesson, students identify and notate musical concepts, learn about music historical figures and events, and experience music-making. Students continually work to develop proper singing technique through a variety of repertoire. During each year in music at Harker, students participate in a staged production to build comprehensive performing arts skills. In grades 2-3, students participate in a combined holiday show.

Grade 4

Students build on their musical skills and concepts begun in previous years. Students continue studying literacy through ear-training and musical notation. Classes are designed using a three-dimensional approach: learning music literacy, learning about music and experiencing music-making. Classes include student

exploration in music history, appreciation, musical theory concepts as well as music and theater performance skills. Along with the aforementioned topics, students in grade 4 develop proper singing technique and learn the recorder. Students participate in two grade-level performances throughout the year, at the annual Harker Day and Grandparents' Day.

Grade 5

Students participate in bi-weekly performing arts class. Students continue building upon music literacy, music appreciation and experiencing music-making. Students continue musicianship skills while also learning theater concepts to develop creativity, basic knowledge and to instill a lifelong appreciation of theater arts. Lessons are designed to give a multidimensional approach into music and theater: music literacy, music appreciation, experiencing music, stage literacy, character development, and experiencing theater. Students in grade 5 participate in a full-length musical theater production in January as well as sing for the grade 5 promotion at the conclusion of the year.

Physical Education Dance

Three weeks out of the school year all K-5 students attend a dance class with a Harker dance instructor. The dance class enhances students' coordination and flexibility, and allows them to focus on moving their bodies and limbs with agility, strength and fluidity. It teaches students to use momentum and control as they dance and gives them the opportunity to explore moving to the rhythm and tempo of music. This program provides basic dance skills in jazz, modern and ballet. Students build on these skills from grade level to grade level. A creative dance component allows students to explore creating their own movements in small groups and alone.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLASSES

Performing arts classes are offered at Harker both during the academic day and after school. Our robust after-school programs offer classes in choral music, dance, instrumental music and technical theater. These classes teach students the technique of each discipline, allow them to explore their creativity and give them the opportunity to perform. Listed here are all of the performing arts classes offered after school. Students sign up for our performing arts classes by registering through our Bucknall Enrichment and Supervision Team (BEST) system on the Harker website at the beginning of the year.

Choral Music

Our lower school choir comprises fourth and fifth grade students who are passionate about singing and eager to improve their musicianship skills. Students will develop their

vocal tone and technique during weekly rehearsals and work on challenging repertoire in a variety of musical styles.

Members of our choir have many opportunities to perform. Annual performance events may include the Harker Family & Alumni Picnic, K-12 holiday assembly, United Voices concert, and the winter and spring lower school instrumental music concerts. Our choir gives students the skills they need to continue their musical pursuit in middle school.

Dance

Dance offers students the opportunity to explore movement, be creative, move to music and have a great time!

Kindergarten

Session I kindergarten students are taught a center floor warm-up, learn basic jazz and ballet dance skills and have an element of creative dance. Kindergarten students who participate in Session II dance are eligible to perform a dance routine in the annual kindergarten show. Each kindergarten homeroom will have its class performance in late April, where dancers can perform music with their class and as dancers.

Grades 1-5

Students must take after-school dance all year to be eligible to perform in the dance concert. The annual dance concert is the last weekend before school ends. New students are encouraged to try dance so they don't miss out on being in the show! Grade 4-5 students can do both after-school sports and dance. Classes teach students the fundamentals of dance, jazz and ballet skills form the basis for the center floor warm-up. Session I after-school dance will focus on reviewing dance skills, learning new dance steps and working on dance technique. Session II students will be taught a routine for the grade 1-5 dance concert with emphasis on learning how to perform and perfect their moves. After-school dance is for boys and girls in every grade level. If your child likes to move and groove, check out a dance class!

Specialty Dance Classes

Specialty dance classes are offered to grade 2-5 students who are enrolled in the dance program. Styles of dance to be offered include tap, modern, ballet, hip-hop, lyrical and jazz.

Dance Fusion

This grades 4-6 audition dance group consists of skilled dancers who work together at a fast pace to learn and perform routines with high energy, precision, enthusiasm and engaging facial expressions. Ensemble members need to maintain good academic and citizenship standing. Auditions are in August. Students in this also take afterschool dance classes, enroll in a specialty class, and perform in the annual dance concert.

Instrumental Music

The instrumental music program offers students a comprehensive yearlong course of study in orchestra, ensembles and groups along with private one-on-one lessons with specialty teachers. Each group builds upon the skills learned from the prior group and will focus on following a conductor, ensemble rehearsal and performance and a general understanding of various styles and genres through exposure to a diverse range of repertoire. There are performances throughout the school year.

There are also private lessons available after school for Brass: trumpet, Strings: violin, viola, cello and double bass, Strings Fretted: guitar and electric bass, Woodwinds: clarinet, flute and saxophone and percussion: drum set.

Technical Theater

Students in grade 5 may take one to four quarters of Technical Theater, in which students learn and practice backstage skills. Students then create/build the tech and participate in the backstage crew for many performances at the lower school throughout the year.

VISUAL ARTS

At all grade levels, art courses use a variety of art media to build a basic foundation and understanding of the elements and principles of art and design. Lessons focus on engaging students' imaginations, enhancing their critical thinking skills and developing technical and perceptual skills, as appropriate for the different grade levels.

The program is sequential and cumulative, giving students both the knowledge and technical skills to use art as a means of personal expression and communication. Students are encouraged to think

creatively, and to respond to problems with originality, flexibility, fluency and imagination. Students learn to appreciate and value art as an important realm of human activity and a lifelong source of insight, understanding and personal and social development. Understanding art within its social and historical contexts and its relationship to other fields of knowledge are also goals of the program.

Kindergarten-Grade 3:

Components of the curriculum include an introduction to the elements of art and design concepts such as line, pattern, texture, positive and negative space, color mixing, symmetric and asymmetric design, and balance. Projects include ceramics, collage, drawing, painting and printmaking. Students develop hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Students are also introduced to art history through selected movements and artists including, but not limited to, Piet Mondrian, Joan Miro, Alma Thomas, Pablo Picasso and Frida Kahlo.

Grades 4-5:

Students practice the elements of art such as form, line, shape, color, texture, space and value. In addition, the students are introduced to the principles of design

(emphasis, balance, harmony, variety, movement, rhythm, proportion and unity). Students have the opportunity to work with a variety of art media such as pencil, colored pencil, chalk and oil pastel, watercolor, paint and printmaking. They also have opportunities to work in 3-D through ceramics and sculpture. Students also use the 3-D printer to enhance and deepen the media which they produce. Students learn the skills needed for specific art tools and select technical skills that help the development and hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, confidence and personal expression. Students are also given the chance to relate their work to specific historical movements through art history; this includes, but is not limited to, artists Vincent Van Gogh, Jacob Lawrence and Yayoi Kusama.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH & WELLNESS

The physical education program offers opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of physical activities, learn the fundamentals of team and individual sports, learn personal fitness skills, interact within their social world, and develop healthy lifetime habits and interests. Health and wellness topics, including mental as well as physical health, family life, maturation and drug education are a part of the physical education curriculum.

Two categories – movement concepts and skill themes – characterize the physical education curriculum in K-5. Movement concepts are space awareness (self-space, general space, levels, directions, pathways, extensions), effort (time, speed, force, flow) and relationships in the

physical world. Skill themes begin with traveling (walking, running, hopping, skipping, galloping, leaping, sliding) and progress through increasingly sophisticated skills (balancing, fleeing and dodging, jumping and landing). By grade 3, the program is helping students develop skills in rolling, kicking, throwing, catching, volleying, hand dribbling, foot dribbling, and striking with racquets and bats. Grade 4-5 students continue to enhance the development of these skills, as they provide the foundations for students to experience success when playing team sports.

Dance is part of the program beginning in kindergarten and swimming begins in grade 1.

STUDY SKILLS & CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Grades 3-5:

The study skills course is designed to assist students in developing strong individual study habits. The course focuses on organizational and time management skills. Topics are introduced in grade 3 and are reviewed and expanded through grades 4-5. Specific topics include creating a good study environment, organizing materials, organizing assignments, developing a study plan, setting priorities, note taking, test preparation and research skills. While a variety of topics are taught in each course, each grade level has a particular focus: In grades 1-2, the focus is how to get ready to do homework and how to pack and unpack one's backpack, respectively.

Grade 3 - how to keep an organized binder and an organized locker;

Grade 4 - how to study for a test over multiple nights and how to make flashcards;

Grade 5 - how to use teacher feedback and how to best utilize the extra help period.

A portion of each grade 3-5 study skills class period is set aside for students to begin their homework assignments.

Kindergarten-Grade 5:

Every Harker student is respected as a valuable human being, and every student is expected to extend that same respect to others. Harker's tenets of kindness, respect, personal accountability and integrity permeate daily campus life and have formed the heart of a Harker education since the school was founded in 1893. We expect our students to follow the Harker Honor Code of

honesty and personal accountability.

Social and emotional skills are essential to academic learning and success in life. Harker's program equips students with positive tools to practice patience, empathy and self-control. Structured, interactive lessons are also part of the comprehensive character development included in the Harker educational experience. Lessons utilize literature, media connections,

discussions, and role-play activities to reinforce inclusivity and the practical application of skills. Building resiliency and empathy for others are important goals we have for our students. Students learn tools that encourage self-awareness, self-management, healthy relationships and responsible decision-making. Instruction is purposeful to promote a community of character and commitment to Harker's mission.

LIBRARY

Harker's library program empowers students to be enthusiastic readers, capable researchers and ethical users of information and ideas. Our collection, available to all students, contains thousands of print, eBook, audio and video resources. In addition to our collection supporting the curriculum, its diversity reflects our student body and the need to provide mirrors validating the reality of their lives as well as windows into other lives.

Students in K-4 come to the library once a week for a regularly scheduled library class, taught by our professional librarians. They are introduced to stories and literature, as well as learn to navigate the world of information literacy skills for lifelong learning. These research skills are reinforced through collaborative research projects in the academic classes at all grade levels. The library actively encourages reading for pleasure through programs such as Fifth Grade Reads, Harker Summer Reading and, with the English department, the annual Tournament of Books competition.

The library is open to students from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday for reading, research or quiet study. In addition, we hold monthly maker events after school for grade 3-5 students who enjoy collaborating and creativity.

Kindergarten

Students learn classic folklore using a variety of storytelling techniques. They listen to and participate in stories that contain familiar characters, and variations of those characters in literature.

Grade 1

Students travel "around the world" in folklore, comparing and contrasting countries and cultures through their time-honored stories.

Grade 2

Comparing archetypes in folklore, this curriculum culminates in the Ogre Awards play in which each second grader portrays a folktale character.

Grade 3

Students are introduced to the world of information. Topics include how books are published and the role of copyright and editors. Using various types of information sources students learn to extract information to answer their research questions.

Grade 4

Learning more advanced information search skills, students practice database and web searching, interpreting results of online searches, note-taking and citation skills.

Grade 5

Students participate in the Book Talk program, facilitated by our librarians. Students also participate in special research projects.

EXTRACURRICULAR OFFERINGS (this is a sampling; courses are subject to change)

After-School (BEST) Offerings (subject to change)

Drop-In Activities (included in Tuition)

Action Zone

Art

Creative Corner

Free Swim

Homework/Study Room

Kick Back Club

Kindergarten Action Adventures

Kindergarten Creations

Library

Playground

Learning Workshops (may include small material fee)

Art (3-D Art, Art for Kindergarten, Paint the World, The Wonderful World of Drawing)

Computers

Future Problem Solvers (FPS)

Harker Student Productions

Imagine, Plan, Build

Movie Makers (includes a small material fee)

Specialty Classes (additional fees apply)

Cheerleading

Chess

Comic Book Design

Creative Cooking

Engineering FUNdamentals using LEGO®

Girl Scouts for Grades 2-3

Gymnastics

Hindi

Karate

Mandarin

PRE_Engineering with LEGO®

Robotics using LEGO® WeDo

Science Made Fun

Secret Agent Adventures

Sketchbook Journaling

Soccer

Swim Lessons

TGA Golf

Wizbots

Yoga

Performing Arts (some included in tuition, some for fee)

Choral Music: Lower School Choir

Dance: Dance, Specialty Dance, Dance Fusion

Instrumental Music: Kindergarten First-Year Strings Group, First-Year Strings Group, First-Year Winds Group, Guitar Group, Preparatory String Ensemble, String Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble

Technical Theater

Sports

Baseball (boys)

Basketball

Flag Football

Soccer

Softball (girls)

Swimming

Track & Field

Volleyball

Water Polo



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