



2026-27

After-School Activity Guide

BEST, Performing Arts and Athletics



HARKER®
Est. 1893 • K-12 College Prep

Lower School ~ K-5

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408.871.4600 • www.harker.org

A Note from the Director

Dear Lower School Families,

Welcome to another exciting year with the BEST department! We're so happy to be back and to offer a new year full of play, discovery and connection for your children. Whether they're exploring the playground or diving into an after-school class, we're committed to creating a space where every child feels safe, inspired and supported as they try new things, follow their passions, and make meaningful friendships along the way.

Our team of caring, enthusiastic staff members, along with community partners who bring a wide variety of talents and expertise, are here to help make every afternoon something special. Working together with Harker faculty and families, we're honored to help grow a vibrant community filled with creativity, curiosity and, of course, plenty of fun.

This After-School Activity Guide is your go-to resource for all that we're offering this year. It includes important information about our programs and classes, so we encourage you to keep it handy! We'll continue to share updated details throughout the year as each new quarter begins.

If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Warmly,



Andrea Ledford

To reach our office, please email: LSBESTAdmin@harker.org

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AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Bucknall Campus: K-5

All students who attend The Harker School may participate in the after-school enrichment and supervision program at no extra charge.

All students will have the opportunity to choose from several activity categories:

- Free play is available to all students after school. Students are supervised by BEST staff in grade-level areas.
- **Drop-In Activities** do not require registration, and are included in tuition. Options include both passive and active activities, and are announced after school. Students may choose to drop in to these activities between 3:45-4:45 p.m.
- **Learning Workshop Classes** require quarterly registration, and are included in tuition. Students must make a commitment to attend for the entire quarter. These classes may vary each quarter depending on availability, and have included fun options such as Better Together, Outer Space Explorers, Good Planet, and Wild Creatures Class.
- **Specialty Classes**, such as karate, science and instrumentals, require registration and an additional fee. These engaging classes are taught by outside organizations from our local community. Please note that these class fees will be billed to your Harker account. If your child opts to drop a specialty class, you must do so prior to the second class meeting to avoid charges being made to student accounts. Otherwise, full payment is expected. When dropping a class, written notice to the BEST department is required by emailing LSBESTReg@harker.org.
- Students may mix and match activities from any category as long as the class schedules do not conflict. Please read the following pages for a complete listing of all scheduled after-school opportunities. There is no maximum amount of classes this year as long as the class does not conflict with music, dance, sports or athletics.
- Refer to the **Activity Schedule** for days and times classes are offered.

ACTIVITY TYPE	REQUIRE SIGN-UPS	INCLUDED IN TUITION
Drop-In Activities		X
Learning Workshop	X	X
Specialty Classes	X	
Free Play		X

DROP-IN ACTIVITIES

FREE!

- Are chosen by students daily.
- Are designed for students who wish to attend for as little or as long as desired and do not require registration.
- Most drop-in activities are announced after school or are scheduled to take place on certain days of the week.

ART

Grades: 1-5

Art is one of the most popular activities offered in the after school program! Drop-in Art is offered at least two days per week and space is limited. Students may drop in to create, imagine, relax and try out interesting art materials and techniques.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Grades: K, 1-3 and 4-5

Join in on a wide variety of active and passive activities implemented by our imaginative and energetic BEST staff. Choose to get up and get moving, or to relax, create and reflect. If feeling active, students can learn the value of good sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation. On a more passive afternoon, students can opt to let their creativity flow with projects like making crafts, blowing bubbles, molding clay or playing board games. New activities are offered each day and are designed to be age-appropriate for each grade level area. These activities are the perfect way to have fun with friends, stay engaged and participate fully in after-school on a drop-in basis.

STUDY AREAS

Grades: 1-5

Want to get a head start on your homework? Have a test you want to start studying for? Well this is the place for you! A quiet classroom or table area is designated for grades 1-3, the library is available for grades 3-5, and a 10th period classroom is open for grades 4-5.

LEARNING WORKSHOPS (See pg. 17 for Performing Arts)

The following choices are enrichment activities designed to augment classroom instruction in specific subject areas. These workshops require registration and attendance is monitored.

- Students enrolling must make a commitment to attend class for the entire quarter and parents must notify the BEST department if they wish their student to be dropped from the class.
- Classes meet one day per week for either 45 minutes, one hour, or one hour and 15 minutes.
- Learning Workshops are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure to go online to register during our registration timeframe. The following are the offerings this quarter.
- May require a material fee.

ART

Grades: 1-5

For those students who love to be creative, art is for you! We offer several arts genres throughout the year, such as drawing, painting, sculpting and more. Students will be able to explore a variety of art tools and media in an environment where they can express themselves creatively and joyfully. They are encouraged to explore, create and achieve through process-based projects. The students will also have opportunities for free-choice art work to practice newly learned techniques. Art students will gain and enhance their artistic skills, stimulate their imagination, and build their self-confidence.

BETTER TOGETHER

Grade: K-2

Join this class to play and learn with your peers! Have fun making connections with team bonding activities. Practice positive ways to communicate and build each other up. Led by Ms. Pamela, we can't wait to get better, together!

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS (FPS)

Grade: 5

Meets weekly Q1 & Q2 Only; however, please be aware that participants will be involved with the program the whole year.

FPS (motto: "Teaching students how to think, not what to think.") is an international organization teaching and developing critical thinking skills. There is a significant writing and social component because students are expected to clearly articulate their ideas and work together as a fixed team of four throughout the year as they learn to develop and break down any issue

or topic. Teams research each topic and then assess a hypothetical future crisis. Assessments include extensive explanations of challenges, solutions and a detailed plan of putting a winning solution into action. In the spring there is also an innovative skit component where students also creatively show their plan in action. FPS develops a multitude of skills including team building, creative thinking and leadership.

Please note: This is only for the dedicated student. If you think you may drop at a later date, this class is not for you! FPS requires a yearlong commitment: Q1 & Q2 in an after-school training and Q3 and Q4, at mandatory weekend training sessions spread out across October, December, February and April (specific dates are not set yet). If a member of a team is missing it is unfair to the other members of that particular team. Teams will be partnered with their own mentor from the upper school to help them improve their understanding of this amazing, but intense, process.



SPECIALTY CLASSES (See pg. 17 for Performing Arts)

**Fees
Apply**

- The following classes are provided by private organizations that offer their programs to Harker students.
- All classes require registration and an additional fee.
- All fees will be charged to your Harker account. Please see quarterly activity information for specific fees.

BRICKTECH

At Brick Tech, we want to inspire and captivate the imagination of every child in our program. We utilize LEGO® to explain STEM and robotics concepts. This is achieved through a combination of guided LEGO® projects and structured play time in a safe and fun learning environment. At Brick Tech we believe the best way to learn is by doing.

Brick Techniques STEM basics with LEGO®

Grade: Kindergarten

Join Brick Tech as we introduce your child to STEM basics by building guided projects out of LEGO® pieces! Each LEGO® project will showcase relevant STEM concepts, such as a motorized helicopter to discuss gear drives or a skyscraper with bricks to introduce overlapping construction, fostering hands-on learning for participants. One project will be introduced each day of class and students will have the remaining time to build, discover, and learn with additional LEGO® pieces. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Design & Drive with LEGO®

Grades: 1-3

Are you a LEGO® gear head? Then come learn all about vehicles with Brick Tech this fall! Participants will be introduced to a variety of mechanical engineering concepts-from chassis types to aerodynamic design through hands-on building with LEGO®. Join us as we build, discover, and learn by engineering the motorized vehicle of your dreams!

LEGO® Robotics with the Spike Prime System

Grades: 4-5

Brick Tech is happy to introduce our newest robotics class using LEGO's Spike Prime® system. In this course, students will build projects that will introduce robotics concepts while also learning to program with a scratch based programming language. Projects will include use of color, distance and touch sensors. There are no prerequisites for this class.

CHESS CLUB - ACADEMICARE INSTITUTE

Grades: K-5

Chess (Beginners through Advanced)

We are devoted to promoting the merits of chess amongst children by using stories, analogies, and catchy songs to make the game of chess exciting. This unique learning experience teaches children to play chess and prepares them for life by enhancing their thought processes. Children participating in the Chess Club classes develop enhanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills, have better concentration and mental discipline, and gain confidence.

Our instruction teaches fundamental chess elements for varying proficiency levels, from the absolute beginner to the competitive player level. The lesson plans assist in promoting educational values that can be learned through chess. Classes will incorporate critical thinking, planning, logic and much more. Students are encouraged to demonstrate sportsmanship and strive for success in the classroom over the chessboard.

Our U.S. Chess Federation-certified coaches will provide professional training at all levels. Students get access to a ChessKid.com account, and all will receive our published Chess Club booklet series to help them follow along with what they've learned in class at their own pace while earning prizes by completing each book.

Chess Club classes are one hour long and meet once a week. Our award-winning curriculum ensures that students of all ages and levels will learn something new every class meeting, and each session ends with our famous chess trophy tournament.

CODE ADVANTAGE

Code Advantage delivers fun, educational experiences in interactive environments made for learning, creating, and mastering technology skills. We don't just teach coding and robotics - we create learning environments for kids to develop logical thinking, creative exploration, and critical reasoning skills. while having fun.

Scratch Junior

Grades: 1-2

Learning to code is a critical skill for children to learn! Much like learning another language, it's best to have kids learn about programming concepts early and often! In our Scratch Jr class, kids will learn coding concepts including computer automation and linear sequencing. They will make short stories, apply elements of animation, and create their own sprites and objects – all using technology and coding fundamentals!

Scratch Programming

Grades: 1-5

The Scratch class provides a powerful learning tool for budding programmers. Using an advanced block coding format, Scratch teaches fundamental programming concepts. Students learn these critical concepts by creating animations and computer games with interacting characters. Students will apply problem-solving skills to debug programs, make customizations and bring their imaginations to life!

Minecraft Code: World Adventure

Grades: 1-3

Grab your passports, we are off to explore new worlds within the Minecraft realm! Students will learn to move, explore, build, and code within Minecraft while visiting exciting places including ancient Egypt, Tokyo Disneyland, Chicago, the wizarding world of Hogwarts, and more! Students will use their knowledge and creativity to design projects on their own. Students do not need prior experience with Minecraft.

Story Time with AI (Grades 3-5)

Students harness the power of AI technology to support and enhance their creativity while building a unique multimedia story, combining original ideas with the power of AI! Along the way, learn about creative writing, AI ethics, and a range of AI tools. Fully develop main characters including personality, imagery and more. Students will use AI to create visuals to represent story locations and utilize ChatGPT to enhance your existing story ideas. You will also be challenged to think critically about AI-generated content, its many uses, and its limitations. Note: This class is structured like a creative writing

class, but every step of the process uses AI tools to prompt creativity and fully realize students' ideas.

DIETS & LIFE

Food Explorers

Grades: 1-5

Explore seasonal fresh foods with Food Explorers Club's hands-on cooking and baking program. The Food Explorers Club program offers young chefs a chance to explore tasty, healthy, globally-inspired recipes, and master culinary skills that they can use in family kitchens. Our goal is to nourish their bodies and minds through the art of cooking. Food Explorers Club's talented and experienced instructors bring in all fresh ingredients, equipment, and supplies to lead an engaging, fun, and interactive cooking class with your young chefs in training. Our cooking classes are a blast for all ages! Our recipes are always nut free, and we try to accommodate all food allergies. You'll never repeat a recipe!

ENACTE ARTS

EnActe School of Drama offers innovative, holistic, bespoke drama-based programs that not only teach theater skills, but also life skills through theater. We believe film and theater arts skills are essential for any life path. These artistic experiences teach self-thought, adaptability, resourcefulness, and social competence skills like presentation, perception and persuasion.

Critical Thinking & Creative Writing

Grades: 2-5, meets two times per week

Our popular program is designed for either elementary or middle schoolers. A typical day begins with a screening of a short animated film (3-8 minutes), then delves into story analysis and design in order to help students think critically to creatively write a story using the same logical/narrative structures. Each class ends with each student having an outline for a clearly communicated coherent narrative. This program helps students learn the invaluable skill of clear and persuasive communication from a basis of storytelling. Ultimately, students will have the structures necessary to make arguments, change minds, and impact the future. Students will walk away with a portfolio of story outlines they have brainstormed during their time in the class.

No Fear, Drama is Here!

Grades: 2-5

Our classic theater and film acting class provides an immersive, collaborative and educational experience. Students will have custom scenes written for them by a professional writer, each working on their specific challenges and framed around their personal needs. They will learn projection

through vocality, critical thinking through script analysis, creativity through character dimensionalization, command through stage/screen presence, and confidence through emotional exploration. Through all of these tools, students will find a new way of communicating and succeeding with the world around them.

From Faces to Fables

Grades: K-1

Step into the world of masks and storytelling! A dynamic program that blends art, culture and technology to bring characters to life! Students will explore the significance of masks in theater traditions from around the world, including Greek theater, Commedia dell'Arte, Kathakali, Japanese Noh and African traditions. They will design and craft their own unique masks using papier-mâché, paints and patterns.

Laugh Out Loud!

Grades: 1-3

A fun-filled program for kids to build confidence, improve communication, and explore comedy! Through improv games, silly warm-ups and character creation, students learn the secrets of humor using dialogue, body language and props. With a focus on teamwork and self-expression, they'll develop comedic timing while ensuring laughter is inclusive and kind. The program culminates in group skits that combine learned elements - characters, dialogue, physical comedy and props. Instructors ensure students learn comedy respectfully, making everyone feel included and comfortable.

Teambuilding Through Story

Grades: K-1

Our introduction to performance through classic storytelling provides a safe space for students to explore their imaginations and emotions through theater games and performance. Students will work collaboratively in an ensemble performance-based retelling of a storybook, under the guidance of a professional storyteller. They will learn how to work as a team, become stewards of their community, how to project their voices, communicate with their body and exercise critical thinking skills through story analysis and game play. Through all of these tools, students will find a new way of communicating and succeeding with the world around them.

Ted Talks Toolkit

Grades: 3-5

Is your child going to change the world? This class will give your student the opportunity to think about big ideas in a way they can digest and communicate their own big ideas to shape the future. Each class, the

students will watch a short TedTalk given by someone between the ages of 6-15 and engage in a critical analysis of the ideas presented within their cohort. Then students innovate their own new projects and share their ideas with their peers. This process will challenge their ideas and ultimately teach them about persuasion, public speaking, charisma, stage presence, clarity, and other leadership skills! Students will have a blast while learning fundamental skills that will help them in their future careers. As a final project, students will write, perform, and record their own TedTalks which can be shared with their friends and family!

FENCING

Instructor: Ania Tibbetts

Grades: K-5

This is an introductory fencing class in which students will learn basic footwork, bladework, practice drills, play games, and enjoy a fun-filled and safe program of swordplay. Additionally, fencing students develop confidence & poise, coordination, and problem-solving skills. The class is taught by a professional fencing master who has trained complete beginners to elite world class athletes. She is committed to nurturing the potential of every fencer, from their very first lesson to the highest levels of competition. Class sizes will be small, and equipment is provided.

Enlighten Chinese School

Let's Play in Chinese!

Grades: 1-3

This class is designed for non-Chinese background children who wish to cultivate the ability to communicate in Chinese. We follow a balanced approach in developing learners' listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities. Emphasis is placed on teaching sentence patterns, with new vocabulary introduced to allow learners to build a solid foundation in the language, rather than on the memorization of grammatical rules. Using a variety of activities such as songs, games, story-telling, role play and oral exercises, necessary linguistic information is repeated throughout the course to ensure a good understanding. As well as listening and speaking, the course also teaches some written Chinese. According to the order of the strokes and components in Chinese characters, Chinese characters are introduced in order of increasing difficulty - from easier one-stroke characters to more complex ones. Each level builds on the characters, phrases and sentences patterns learned in the preceding levels. By the time

learners reach the last level of the course, they are expected to be able to communicate in some way in Chinese on the basis of some 700 words and expressions.

GRASSHOPPER KIDS

Grasshopper Kids brings a spirit of play and discovery to children everywhere. Led by talented teachers who share their passions and crafts, our programs are designed to spark curiosity, creativity and joy, because we know that when kids are laughing, they're learning.

Hooked on Crochet: Stitch Your Own Creations

Grades: 3-5

In this captivating crochet series, students will discover the delightful art of looping yarn with a hook! Kids will explore creativity by learning the essentials of crochet, mastering techniques like chaining and stitching, all at their own pace. As they create their very own simple project, children will enhance their fine motor skills and patience. Whether crafting a cool scarf or a fun coaster, students will experience the pure joy and satisfaction of bringing something beautiful to life with their own hands. This experience will surely leave children proud and eager to show off their colorful creations.

Sing, Play, Shine: A Musical Adventure

Grades: 1-2

Let the music begin! Dive into a world where melodies come alive and voices shine through thrilling, hands-on activities. As students explore music, they'll unlock new levels of creativity, all while enjoying every session. This harmonious journey will inspire kids to express themselves through song, boost their confidence, and even make new singing buddies along the way. Whether they're belting out favorite tunes or crafting new ones, it's all about having fun - one note at a time!

GYMKIDS USA

Grades: K-5

Cheerleading: Cheer Kids

Learn to shake your sparkly pom poms and show your Harker Eagles spirit! Beginning cheer lessons focus on proper technique, cheer positions, cheer jumps, Eagle chants and cheers. Fun pom-pom drill team dance routines will be taught to popular, age-appropriate music. Seasonal cheers and chants for sports and beginning gymnastics will be introduced. Cheerleading and gymnastic skills are taught based on readiness, physical ability and age-

appropriateness of each student. Basic cheer positions, warm-up routine and beginning cartwheels are also taught. Mini stunts will be introduced to grade 2-5 students. Lessons are conducted outdoors. Classes are taught indoors pending weather. Taught by Ms. Melinda, Owner GymKids USA. Performing: ALL cheerleaders perform on the last day of every quarter during the after-school meeting for students. K-5 cheer students will cheer at on-campus Harker games when they fall on a cheerleading class day. Grade 2-5 cheer students will also perform at the Harker Homecoming football game in the fall, which is optional and not required for the cheer class.

AWARDS: Certificates are awarded at the end of every quarter to validate every child's efforts. MEDALS are awarded at the end of the school year for students who have participated in all four quarters of Cheerleading class.

CHEERLEADER PARENT NOTES - Requirements:

- Pom Poms: One-time pom pom fee of \$40, which includes a cheer bag for poms. Students will be given pom poms in class and they will be charged to your Harker account. Pom-poms are all identical for Harker performances. Poms are professional (not toys) and specifically made for the sport of cheerleading. Returning students please bring your pom poms to class.
- Waiver: Parents/Guardians must complete and sign a GymKids USA waiver before class begins. Waivers are to be completed and filled out only once per school year. Waiver form will be provided through a welcome email and handed out on the first day of class.
- Attire and Shoes: Wear comfortable, movable clothing. School uniform is acceptable with pants or shorts under jumpers. Wear proper ankle support athletic tennis shoes.
- Hair: Pull hair back with a ponytail on cheerleading day. Students need to safely see where they are going and landing while practicing cartwheels and basic tumbling.

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Gym Kids classes combine rhythmic gymnastics and traditional gymnastics tumbling in one class. Students will learn gymnastic dance routines and circus style tricks with the long ribbon, hoop, ball and rope apparatuses. Students are also taught basic tumbling skills, cartwheels and drills using specialty mats. Gymnastics are taught at the introductory and beginning level based on age appropriateness and skill level of each student. A fun gymnastic obstacle course with cones, river rocks, jump-over bars and balance beam are included in every lesson. This program covers proper agility, coordination, strength and flexibility development. Careful attention to proper technique, stretching, warm-up and, above all, safety is stressed in every class. K and grade 1 students will be introduced to the long ribbon,

short ribbon and hoop apparatus. Grade 2-5 students will be introduced to the long ribbon, hoop, ball and rope apparatus. An optional performance for grade 2-5 students occurs on the last day of every quarter during the after-school meeting for students. Classes will be taught indoors and occasionally outdoors pending lessons and apparatus used. AWARDS: Certificates are awarded at the end of every quarter to validate every child's efforts. MEDALS are awarded at the end of the school year for students who have participated in all four quarters of gymnastics class. Taught by Ms. Melinda, Owner GymKids USA.

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTIC PARENT NOTES - Requirements:

- Waiver: Parents/Guardians must complete and sign a GymKids USA waiver before class begins. Waivers are to be completed and filled out only once per school year. Waiver form will be provided through a welcome email and handed out on the first day of class.
- Attire: Wear comfortable movable clothing. School uniform is acceptable with pants or shorts under jumpers.
- Hair: Pull hair back with a ponytail on gymnastics day. Students need to safely see where they are going and landing while practicing cartwheels and basic tumbling.

Yoga Acrobats

A fun combination class in beginning Yoga and Acrobats, including yoga animal poses, partner balancing yoga and gymnastic movement. Individual and partner acrobatic balancing drills and skills are introduced. Our unique class combines flexibility, strength, concentration, coordination, balance and imagination while enjoying fun movement. A relaxing environment with soft music. Breathing exercises are important and are kept very simple for kids. Gym mats, bean bags, scarves, yoga obstacle course and balance beam will be used to enhance learning. Yoga, gymnastic movement and acrobatic balancing skills are taught based on readiness and age appropriateness of each student. Cartwheels are not taught in this class. OPTIONAL YOGA MAT: Child-sized yoga mats will be provided. Students may bring their own (child-sized) mat if desired. AWARDS: Certificates are awarded at the end of every quarter to validate each child's effort. Medals are awarded at the end of the school year for students who have participated in all four quarters of Yoga Acrobats class. Taught by Ms. Melinda, owner of GymKids USA

YOGA ACROBATS PARENT NOTES - Requirements:

- Waiver: Parents/Guardians must complete and sign a GymKids USA waiver before class begins. Waivers are to be completed and filled out only once per school year. Waiver form will be provided through a welcome email and handed out on the first day of class.
- Attire: Wear comfortable movable clothing. School uniform is acceptable

with pants or shorts under jumpers.

- Hair: Pull hair back with a ponytail on yoga acrobats day so your child may see safely during their lessons.

KYOSHIN-RYU KARATE

Kyoshin-Ryu is derived from the Japanese words “Kyoshin” meaning “a mind like a mirror” and “Ryu” referring to the style or type of art practiced. Kyoshin-Ryu embodies profound philosophical principles intertwined with martial arts mastery. Our philosophy is to emphasize constant self-improvement and societal betterment. We encourage our students to continuously grow, striving to enhance themselves and create a positive impact on the world.

Karate: Beginner

Grades: K-3

Introduction to basic Karate techniques, forms and self defense applications. Each quarter, we will improve upon our foundation and learn new moves. Students will practice low, leg strengthening stances and attention to detail with precise techniques. We will engage the mind with memorization through forms and how to control yourself and your emotions. As a student advances in rank, they will practice leadership through demonstrations of what they've learned and how to teach under supervision. We will balance out hard work with fun and engaging Karate!

Karate: Advanced

Grades: 4-5

This class is for the most dedicated Karateka. Students are expected to be serious about their learning and put in their best effort every day. We will push ourselves to the limits using more difficult moves and forms while understanding the application of complicated self defense techniques.

LANDO LEARNING

Lando is a unique organization that offers 90-minute STEM classes that combine some technology and a lot of group problem-solving to achieve the class objectives.

Clay World Building

Grades: K-5

Students will pinch, coil and sculpt a tiny worlds to life: dragon bakeries, cloud castles, and candy bridges. Pick from 10 new builds each class with teachers modeling key steps one-on-one. We'll start simple, then level up,

breaking down characters, adding texture, and getting proportions right. Students will end by staging their scenes and taking them home.

Math Tycoon - Theme Park

Grades: 1-3

Build a new theme park every class - water parks, space parks, safari adventures and more. Children will Invite customers, build wild rides, and grow their parks to unlock a VIP arrival and a themed mini-game. The math they do is matched to their grades, so they stay challenged without getting stuck. Aligned to California Common Core standards.

Mini-Game Coders: Retro Remix

Grades: 1-5

Students will remix arcade classics by coding their own Pong, Snake or Frogger using Lando's Scratch-based iPad app. Add boss battles, power-ups and extra levels with teachers guiding just-right challenges so no one gets stuck or bored. Playtest with friends to see who can beat the game, then take home a link to keep coding after class.

MINI MAKERS ACADEMY

Mini Maker Academy creates experiential financial literacy, investing, and entrepreneurship programs for students in grades K-8. Through simulations, role-playing games, discussion, and real-world challenges, students build financial confidence while developing critical thinking, decision-making, and practical money skills for life. From classroom economies to investing simulations, our programs bring money, business, and investing to life.

Pennyville: The Sweet Shop Adventure

Grades: K-1

Young learners enter the whimsical world of Pennyville, where lovable characters help them solve real-world money challenges through stories, role-play, games, and hands-on sensory activities. As students help solve playful “money mix-ups,” they explore earning, spending, saving, budgeting, and entrepreneurship while building confidence with money. Along the way, they create candy-themed businesses, earn coins, make decisions, and participate in a lively classroom marketplace.

Centropolis: The Great Money Adventure

Grades: 2-4

Centropolis is a game-based financial literacy and entrepreneurship simulation where students become shop owners, customers, and citizens in a kid-powered city. As they launch businesses, set prices, earn money, and participate in live marketplaces, they experience firsthand how money

moves through an economy. Along the way, students explore earning, spending, saving, budgeting, banking, marketing, revenue, costs, and profit while developing personal finance knowledge, entrepreneurial thinking, and business decision-making skills.

Investor Island: The Stock Market Adventure

Grade: 5

Students step into the role of investors, managing a simulated \$100,000 portfolio of real companies. As they research businesses, compare investment opportunities, and debate investment ideas, they learn how investors make decisions in an uncertain world. Through simulations, discussions, debates, and case studies, students explore stocks, diversification, risk, and long-term investing while learning to analyze information, support their ideas with evidence, and make thoughtful, data-driven decisions.

NEXPLORE

Through FUN, project-based learning, students explore their passions and learning becomes a joy. Nexplore supports kids' natural curiosity with opportunities that build 21st century skills and create a drive for lifelong learning.

Let's Play in Hindi!

Grades: 1-3

Our interactive Hindi class ignites curiosity and builds enthusiasm for Hindi and the cultures that speak it. Through games, songs, and engaging activities, students develop essential language skills like greetings, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. Language-learning helps students develop focus, improve memory, and boost creativity.

Young Detectives

Grades: K-2 & 3-5

Young investigators step into the role of crime scene scientists to solve an exciting mystery. Through hands-on activities like fingerprinting, chromatography, evidence analysis and observation challenges, students build logical reasoning while applying the scientific method. Each lesson adds new clues that lead to a collaborative "whodunit" finale, where teams use their skills to crack the case with confidence.

Young Doctors

Grades: K-2 & 3-5

Students explore how their bodies function through movement-based activities, models, and interactive investigations. Learners discover bones,

muscles, the heart, lungs, brain and senses while practicing healthy habits and hygiene. Through engaging experiments and collaborative challenges, students build foundational life science knowledge, curiosity and confidence while connecting learning to real-world health careers.

Woodcrafting

Grades: 3-5

This program introduces students to the basics of carpentry as they measure, sand, and build real projects – doing it all themselves from start to finish. Each lesson blends practical woodworking skills with math and problem-solving, all while encouraging teamwork, creativity, and the true DIY spirit. Young woodworkers gain confidence by taking full ownership of their projects, honing their skills through hands-on experience and personal craftsmanship.

SCIENCE MADE FUN

Grades: K-3

HIGH TOUCH HIGH TECH

High Touch High Tech enrichments provide students with a unique, interactive experience that brings science concepts to life. In this hands-on science class, students will explore various topics among chemistry, physical, life and earth sciences. Each week the students will discover a new and engaging scientific concept, which will be accompanied by two or three hands-on experiments which bring the concept to life. Students roll up their sleeves and become REAL scientists! *Note: The same concepts will be covered in both classes. For the upper grade levels, we will increase the depth of explanation and time permitting, may include an extra experiment. Different topics will be covered each quarter, so students can sign up year-long to explore across the scientific disciplines. Most concepts covered will be the same year-over-year.*

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing arts classes are offered at Harker both during the academic day and after school. After school classes are offered in choral music, dance 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 below are all of the performing arts classes offered after school. We encourage interested students to join the performing arts classes by registering through the after-school registration process. The performing arts department looks forward to a wonderful year of learning, performing and having fun!

Please note that performing arts classes may have different start dates than other BEST activities.

Note: an asterisk () denotes performing arts offerings that are FREE and also considered Learning Workshops. See pg. 4 for more details.*

CHORAL MUSIC

Grades 4-5 Lower School Concert Choir

Lower School Concert Choir is a yearlong performance-based ensemble for students who are passionate about singing and eager to improve their musicianship skills in a group setting. Students will develop their vocal technique and tone during weekly rehearsals while learning challenging repertoire in a variety of musical styles.

Members of Lower School Concert Choir have many opportunities to perform. Annual performance events include the K-12 holiday assembly, United Voices concert, and winter and spring music concerts. Lower School Concert Choir gives students the skills they need to continue their musical pursuit in middle school.

DANCE

K-5 Dance Director: Ms. Palmer, gail.palmer@harker.org

Grades 1-5 Dance/Grade Level Dance Classes

Class Days/Times:

Gr. 1 - Wed., 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Gr. 2 - Tues., 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Gr. 3 - Wed., 4:15-5:15 p.m.

Gr. 4 - Mon., 4:15-5:15 p.m.; or Thurs., 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Gr. 5 - Mon., 4:15-5:15 p.m.; or Thurs., 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Students must take after-school grade level dance ALL YEAR to be eligible to perform in the dance concert. The annual dance concert is at the end of May. 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. This class will teach students the fundamentals of dance. Jazz and ballet skills form the basis for the center floor warm-up. Dance offers students the opportunity to explore movement, be creative, move to music and have a great time! Quarter 1, 2 and 3 after-school dance classes will focus on reviewing dance skills, learning new dance steps and working on dance technique. Quarter 4 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 and skill level. Please contact Gail Palmer if you have any questions regarding the dance program.

Kindergarten Dance

K-8 Dance Director: Ms. Palmer, gail.palmer@harker.org

Class Days/Times: Mon., 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Quarter 1 & 2 kindergarten students are taught a center floor warm-up and learn basic jazz and ballet dance skills. Kindergarten students who participate in quarter 3 & 4 dance are eligible to perform a dance routine in the annual kindergarten show. Each kindergarten homeroom will have its class performance in late April. Students are registered for kindergarten dance every two quarters. Please contact Gail Palmer if you have any questions regarding the dance program.

Dance Attire: K-1: Biker or athletic shorts/pants, leggings, and any Harker shirt. Grades 2-5: Biker or athletic shorts/pants, leggings, with a leotard or fitted T-shirt or biker unitard.

- The Harker P.E. shorts, or sweats are not options for dance.
- Students are not required to wear dance shoes.
- Hair should be pulled back off the face.

Specialty Dance Classes

K-8 Dance Director: Ms. Palmer, gail.palmer@harker.org

Specialty dance classes are offered Mon. thru Thurs. 5:15-6:15 and Fri. 3:45-4:45 & 5:15-6:15. The specialty dance classes are offered to give grade 2-5 students the opportunity to explore different styles of dance and work on their technique. Students need to be in a grade-level dance class to take the specialty dance classes. The specialty dance schedule will be emailed to the parents of grade level dancers the first week in September and the classes will start in mid-September. Registration for the specialty dance classes is done directly through Gail Palmer.

Dance Audition Group

Dance Fusion: Grade 4-6 girls and boys auditioned dance team

Director: Ms. Palmer, gail.palmer@harker.org

This 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 and must take classes in the Harker dance program. In addition to their weekly group rehearsals, all are required to: take an after-school dance class all year; take a specialty

dance class from Sept.-Feb.; perform in the annual dance concert.

Auditions:

Audition registration is through google docs and the link will be emailed to all grade 4 and 5 students in mid-August. More information regarding auditions is on the form. Students must be registered by the first day of school to audition.

FUN WITH FABRICS

Grades 4-5

Instructor: Marilyn Watts

Would you like to design and create your own costumes, plushies or accessories? Students will learn how to work with fabric and crafting materials to design and create various sewn pieces for themselves (or for a younger sibling or pet!). Participants will have the option to learn a variety of sewing and crafting techniques. They may learn to follow or even create a pattern, machine sew, hand sew, glue/tack fabric, etc. This class is appropriate for all experience and skill levels including those who already sew and those who have never tried it before. Students may take as many quarters as they wish. Quarter 1 will focus on Halloween costumes; quarter 2 on home decor and holiday gifts; quarter 3 on spring fashions and accessories; and quarter 4 on summer fashions and accessories.

PICNIC PLAYERS

Grade: 4

Calling all grade 4 actors and backstage crew: Let's do a show!

A highlight of our annual Harker Day celebration is a full-scale performance in the beautiful Patil Theater on our upper school campus - and our fourth graders are the stars of the show! Share the stage with favorite administrators and staff in a theatrical comedy that pays tribute to our school. Don't miss this beloved Harker tradition!

Actors may choose to have a main speaking role, a small part, or a non-speaking role. Those choosing backstage crew will help backstage and create the sets, props, etc. (Actors may choose to assist backstage as well.) This opportunity is ONLY offered Quarter 1! Space is extremely limited; first come, first served.

Special instructions:

- We start on the first day of school: Wed., Aug. 26.
- Students who do not attend (without prior permission) will be dropped

from class.

- Students in Choir or Dance Fusion may not enroll. Performances conflict. Those auditioning for Dance Fusion will be placed on the wait list until results are announced.
- All rehearsals are mandatory for speaking roles.
- Do not arrive late or leave early for rehearsals.

Mandatory after-school rehearsals (3:15-5:15 p.m.): Wed., Aug. 26, Wed., Sep. 2, Wed., Sep. 9, Wed., Sep. 16, Wed., Sep. 23, and Wed., Sep. 30, (cast party Wed., Oct. 7)

Mandatory lunch rehearsals (11:35 a.m.-12:15 p.m.): Wed., Sep. 2, Thur., Sep. 10, Thur., Sep. 17, Thur., Sep. 24, and Tues., Sep. 28

Mandatory rehearsals at Saratoga campus RPAC:

Fri., Oct. 2 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.,

Sat., Oct. 3 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Our two performances are Sat., Oct. 3 at 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Advance tickets required for families to attend.

TECHNICAL THEATER

Grade 5 Technical Theater

Instructor: Mrs. Dunn, danny.dunn@harker.org

Students may take one to four quarters of Technical Theater, in which students learn and practice backstage skills. Examples include special effects makeup, power and hand tools, props, sound, lighting, ushering and stage combat. Students then put their skills to use by participating in a minimum of two crew calls during the academic year. These may include crewing live performances and/or attending scenic building days. (Crew opportunities will be available on the Tech Theater Schoology page.) The specific course content changes each quarter based on the needs and opportunities of the shows at the time.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Director After-School Instrumental Music Program: Louis Hoffman, louis.hoffman@harker.org

The instrumental music program offers students a comprehensive yearlong course of study in groups, ensembles and string orchestra along with private one-on-one lessons with specialty teachers.

Our program runs Monday through Friday from 3:45-6:45 p.m. (Wednesdays start at 3:15 p.m.)

Students may join at any time during the school year.

Tuition per quarter paid through student charges.

\$160 for groups, ensembles & string orchestra

\$340 for private one on one lessons

\$480 for both private & groups, ensembles, and string orchestra

PRIVATE IN-PERSON LESSONS

Please note: It is required that any student in a group, ensemble or orchestra will be studying privately. Groups, ensembles and orchestra are not a substitute for private lessons.

Tuition: \$340 per quarter.

These are weekly 30-minute year-long lessons.

We guarantee 28 lessons per school year. Tuition is pro-rated if we fall below the 28-lesson guarantee. There are no makeups or rescheduling.

INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT

Brass: Trumpet and French horn

Woodwinds: Clarinet, flute, recorder and saxophone

Strings: Violin, viola, cello and double bass

Strings Fretted: Acoustic and electric guitar, electric bass and ukulele

Zoom lessons are available.

Please contact Louis Hoffman for further details at louis.hoffman@harker.org.

GROUPS, ENSEMBLES AND STRING ORCHESTRA

Tuition: \$160 per quarter.

These are yearlong courses. Please note: private lessons are required.

Jazz Ensemble (grades 1-5) (open to all instruments)

Mondays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Recommended for all levels who want to learn improvisation.

Note: Limited spots for piano and guitar. Audition required.

Flute Choir (grades 1-5) (flutes/recorders)

Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Recommended for all levels.

Guitar and Ukulele Group (grades 1-5)

Fridays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Recommended for all levels. Acoustic guitar, ukulele and bass only.

Kindergarten Violin and Cello, Ukulele and Recorder Groups.

Wednesdays, 3:15-3:50 p.m.

Recommended to all beginning students.

Note: Private lessons are not available for kindergarten students.

Beginning String Group: Level 1 (grades 1-5) (violin, viola, cello, double bass)

Mondays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Recommended for violin, viola and cello students in their first year of playing.

Preparatory String Ensemble: Level 2 (grades 1-5) (violin, viola, cello, double bass)

Fridays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Recommended for string students in their second year of playing or by evaluation.

String Ensemble: Level 3 (grades 1-5) (violin, viola, cello, double bass)

Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Recommended for intermediate level students who have successfully completed preparatory string ensemble or by evaluation.

String Orchestra: Level 4 (grades 1-5) (violin, viola, cello, double bass)

Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Recommended for advanced students who have successfully completed string ensemble or by evaluation.



The lower school program is structured to provide all grades 4 and 5 interested students with an educational, enjoyable and appropriate experience. In order to accomplish these goals, we have created a structure that combines interscholastic opportunities for the most advanced students and a spirited and instructional intramural program for students who need to concentrate more on sport development.

Mandatory practice days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please refer to your LS/MS athletic handbook for more detailed after-school sports information.



FALL

Sept. - Mid-Oct.

Flag Football
Swimming
Girls Softball

EARLY WINTER

Mid-Oct. - Mid-Dec.

Boys Basketball
Girls Soccer



LATE WINTER

Early Jan. - Mid-March

Boys Soccer
Girls Basketball

SPRING

Mid-March - Mid-May

Baseball, Girls Volleyball,
Track meet

Interscholastic Lower School League- West Bay Athletic League (WBAL)

Castilleja School, The Girls' Middle School, Keys School, Nueva School, Pinewood School, Priory School, Sacred Heart School, Woodland School and Highlands Christian.

HOW TO SIGN UP

- Go to harkerafterschool.campbrainregistration.com or access the Parent Portal, Lower School tab, "After-School Sign Ups", to register for classes that require sign-up. An informational email is sent by the BEST director prior to the opening of registration each quarter.
- Some classes are "drop-in" and require **NO** registration.
- Please refer to the quarterly Activity Schedule for class days, times, and fees (if applicable).

Please contact LSBESTReg@harker.org with any questions.

FOR ALL GRADES: CAMPUS CLOSES 6 P.M.

All students must be picked up by 6 p.m., as campus closes and BEST staff end their day at that time. After 6 p.m., students who are not picked up by the close of school will remain with the BEST staff in the front office. or an adjacent classroom.

KINDERGARTEN AFTER-SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- 3:25 p.m.** Students are dismissed from class (3:10 on Wednesdays).
- Snack is distributed.
 - Students registered in classes for the afternoon are called to line up, and wait for their teacher to lead them to class.
 - Students not participating in a class that afternoon can play on the playground.
- 3:45 p.m.** After-school classes begin (3:30 on Wednesdays).
- A drop-in meeting is called. Students sit on the playground curb and choose between enrichment activities or free time on the playground. Over the next hour, students may move between the different activities.
- 5 p.m.** All classes and drop-in activities conclude by 5 p.m., and students return to the playground.
- Students help clean up the playground.
 - After clean-up, students resume play.
- 5:15 p.m.** Kindergarten students help clean up the playground and then resume playing.
- 6 p.m.** Campus closes.

GRADES 1-3 AFTER-SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- 3:30 p.m.** Students are dismissed from class (3:10 on Wednesdays).
- Snacks are distributed, and students may sit and eat or play on the blacktop.
- 3:40 p.m.** A whistle blows and an announcement is made for the start of activities. Students line up for their after-school classes, or choose a drop-in activity.
- Rosters for after-school classes are posted on class signs each day.
 - If unsure of their after-school schedule, students are encouraged to ask BEST staff for help.
 - All students are required to be in a supervised activity or location at all times.
- 3:45 p.m.** After-school classes and activities begin (3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays).
- 5 p.m.** All classes and drop-in activities conclude with the exception of a few classes that end at 5:15 p.m., and students return to the grade 1-3 area.
- 5:45 p.m.** Students gather their belongings and help to clean up. All students will move to loading zones for pickup.
- 6 p.m.** Campus closes.

GRADES 4-5 AFTER-SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- 3:30 p.m.** Students are dismissed from class.
- Snacks are distributed, and students may sit and eat, or play on the blacktop/playground.
- 3:40 p.m.** An announcement is made for the start of activities and grade 4-5 students report to their after-school classes on their own.
- Schedules are posted in the grade 4-5 area.
 - Students without registered classes may choose to join drop-in activities (i.e., library, drop-in art, 10th period).
 - All students are required to be in a supervised activity or location at all times after school.
- 3:45 p.m.** After-school classes and activities begin (3:30 on Wednesdays).
- 5:00 p.m.** Most classes and drop-in activities conclude by 5 p.m.
- Students return to the grade 4-5 area and gather their belongings, and help to clean up.
- 5:45 p.m.** Remaining students join the loading zones.
- 6 p.m.** Campus closes.

DISMISSAL INFORMATION

Parents may use the loading zone or park and walk to the gate to pick up their child after school.

Parents must always have their placard, whether in the loading zone or on campus, to show authorization for student pickup. BEST staff will scan the QR code on the placard to notify supervisors that a student is being dismissed. If a placard is not available a photo ID will be required.

K-2 students must always check out with a BEST staff member prior to leaving campus.

When leaving the campus, K-3 students must be walked to their cars by an adult.

Grade 4-5 students may walk themselves to the car, so long as they do not need to cross over traffic to get to their car.

To make pickup time quicker and easier, please know your child's after-school schedule.

LOADING ZONES

• Loading zone A: K and grades 1, 4 and 5

• Loading Zone B: grades 2 and 3

*For siblings or carpools, use youngest student's loading zone assignment.

Please follow traffic guidelines and the directions from BEST and security staff while using the loading zones.



HARKER®
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Lower School

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