

# **Performing Arts Casting & Placement Policies**

## **The Harker School**

### **Lower School Campus**

From the moment a student enters kindergarten at Harker, our goal is to create a safe, joyful environment where every child, no matter their interests or abilities, can thrive on stage. We believe performance builds confidence, collaboration, and creativity, and we make sure that every child has the opportunity to shine.

All Lower School students perform in their grade-level productions: every student participates in K–4 music concerts, and every student is cast in the Grade 5 Show.

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#### **K–5 Music & Dance**

##### **Kindergarten Music Class**

All kindergarteners perform in their class show, with each child enjoying a featured moment on stage.

##### **Grades 1–3 Music Class**

Students who would like a featured role (such as narration, dance, singing, or instrumental parts) may audition for these opportunities. Teachers thoughtfully place students and keep track of all who express interest, ensuring a balance of experience across the years.

##### **Grade 4 Music Class**

All students perform as a class at the lower school performance of the Big Assembly Day Holiday Show.

##### **Grade 5 Performing Arts & Music Class**

Every fifth grader performs in the Grade 5 Show. For the first time, students participate in a formal audition process—not in a “cut” situation, but as an assessment tool and an introduction to the audition experience. All students are cast, and many are selected for principal or featured moments (singing, acting, or dancing).

For students seeking additional vocal opportunities, our **Bucknall Choir** is open to grades 4–5, rehearsing on Friday afternoons and performing throughout the year.

## **Dance**

All Lower School students are invited to participate in after-school dance. Students in kindergarten dance perform a dance in their **Kindergarten Show**. Students in grades 1–5 dance and attend dance class throughout the year may perform in the annual **Dance Concert**.

Beginning in grade 4, advanced dancers may audition for **Dance Fusion**, a technical performance based dance team. Each year, 40-60 students audition for 16-22 ensemble spots. Students not placed in Dance Fusion receive one-on-one coaching and feedback on their audition, and all after-school dance participants are included in the annual Dance Concert.

*At Harker, our Performing Arts program is designed to celebrate every child's growth, joy, and creativity on stage or backstage. Whether through music, dance, or theater, every student has a place on our stage.*