

# THE HARKER SCHOOL



## Lower School Performing Arts Program Overview



HARKER®  
*Est. 1893 · K-12 College Prep*

### **Lower School Campus**

4300 Bucknall Road, San Jose, California 95130  
408.871.4600 | [www.harker.org](http://www.harker.org)

# 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, music classes prepare and present a musical performance. Kindergarten performs a mini-musical, grades 1, 2 and 3 participate in a holiday concert, grade 4 sings at the Harker Family & Alumni Picnic and Grandparents' Day, and grade 5 performs a full-length musical theater production. There are additional opportunities for students to participate in the instrumental and dance programs after school. These programs include performance opportunities as well.



For any questions about performing arts, contact the K-12 department chair, Laura Lang-Ree, at [laura.langree@harker.org](mailto:laura.langree@harker.org) or 408.345.9641.



## Academic Day Classes

### **Kindergarten & 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 & Grade 3**

In grades 2 & 3 music, 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 singing 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**

In grade 4 general music, students build on their musical skills and concepts began 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 at this level participate in two grade level performances throughout the year, the annual family picnic and Grandparents' Day.

#### **Grade 5**



In 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.

# After-School Classes

After-school 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 the BEST system on the Harker website. The performing arts department looks forward to a wonderful year of learning, performing and having fun!

## Choral Music

### Grades 4-5 BUCKNALL CHOIR

**Instructors:** Kellie Binney-Smart, [kellie.binney@harker.org](mailto:kellie.binney@harker.org);  
Carena Kay, [carena.kay@harker.org](mailto:carena.kay@harker.org)

**Class Days/Times:** TBD

**Cost:** One time material fee of \$25.

Bucknall 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 Bucknall 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 concerts. Bucknall Choir gives students the skills they need to continue their musical pursuits in middle school





# Dance

**K-8 Dance Director/Instructor: Gail Palmer, [gail.palmer@harker.org](mailto:gail.palmer@harker.org)**

**K-8 Dance:** Jessalyn Espiritu and Kimberly Teodoro

Dance offers students the opportunity to explore movement, be creative, move to music and have a great time! Current class times can be found on the Harker website in the BEST registration system.

## **Grades 1-5 DANCE**

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!

## **KINDERGARTEN DANCE**

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.

## **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, GRADE 4-6

The audition dance group Dance Fusion 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. Members must take classes in the Harker dance program and, in addition to their group rehearsals, are required to:

- take an after-school dance class all year;
- take a specialty dance class for Session I;
- perform in the annual dance concert.

## Dance Attire

**K-1:** Biker shorts, leggings or sweat pants and Harker shirt

**Grades 2-5:** Biker shorts, leggings, sweat pants with a leotard or fitted T-shirt or biker unitard

- Boys may wear athletic shorts or sweat pants.
- The Harker P.E. shorts or sweats are not options for dance.
- Students are not required to wear dance shoes.
- Hair must be pulled back off the face.



# Instrumental Program

## K-5 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

### Director, After-School Music Program:

Louis Hoffman, louis.hoffman@harker.org; 408.553.0544

The instrumental music program offers students a comprehensive year-long 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, 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.

The program runs Mondays through Fridays 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 and ensembles
- \$340 for private lessons
- \$480 for both private and group lessons

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Tuition: \$340 per quarter.

These are weekly 30-minute, year-long lessons that can be taken with a group, ensemble or orchestra.

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

**Brass:** trumpet and French horn

**Strings:** violin, viola, cello and double bass

**Strings Fretted:** both acoustic and electric guitar and electric bass

**Woodwinds:** clarinet, flute, oboe, recorder and saxophone

**Percussion:** drum set only



## **GROUPS, ENSEMBLES AND ORCHESTRA**

Tuition: \$160 per quarter unless otherwise stated.

These are year-long courses, offered either with a private lesson or as a separate class.

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

### **Kindergarten String Group (violin & cello)**

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

Recommended to all beginning violin and cello students. Note: private lessons not required.

### **Beginning String Group (grades 1-5) (violin, viola & cello)**

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

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

### **Preparatory String Ensemble (grades 1-5) (violin, viola, cello & double bass)**

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

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

### **String Ensemble (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 (grades 1-5) (violin, viola, cello & double bass)**

Cost: Once a year material fee of \$80. No additional charges.

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

This performance group is for advanced students. Placement is by evaluation.

\*New students MUST contact Louis Hoffman to set up an evaluation.

### **Wind Ensemble (grades 1-5) (clarinet, flute, French horn, oboe, trumpet & saxophone)**

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

Recommended for all levels for students who would prefer a classical repertoire.





**Jazz Ensemble (grades 1-5) (woodwinds, brass, strings, drum/percussion, keyboard, electric guitar & bass)**

Cost: Once a year material fee of \$80. No additional charges.

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

This performance group is for advanced students. Placement is by evaluation.

\*New students MUST contact Louis Hoffman to set up an evaluation.

**Guitar/Bass Group (grades 1-5)**

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

Recommended for all levels. Acoustic guitar and bass only.





## Technical Theater

**Grade 5 Instructor:** Danny Dunn, [danny.dunn@harker.org](mailto:danny.dunn@harker.org)  
website: [www.harker.org/dannyd](http://www.harker.org/dannyd)

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 Bucknall throughout the year.



# Lower School Performing Arts Faculty

**Laura Lang-Ree, Director of Performing Arts K-12 and Department Chair**

**Tel: 408.345.9641**

**Email: [laura.langree@harker.org](mailto:laura.langree@harker.org)**

Kellie Binney-Smart – Grades 4-5 General Music; Director, Bucknall Choir

Tel: 408.553.0597

Email: [kellie.binney@harker.org](mailto:kellie.binney@harker.org)

Jessalyn Espiritu – K-8 Dance

Tel: 408.553.0563

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Louis Hoffman – K-5 Instrumental Music; Director, Bucknall Orchestra and Jazz Band

Tel: 408.553.0544

Email: [louis.hoffman@harker.org](mailto:louis.hoffman@harker.org)

Carena Kay – K-3 General Music; Assistant Director, Bucknall Choir

Tel: 408.553.0522

Email: [carena.kay@harker.org](mailto:carena.kay@harker.org)

Gail Palmer – K-8 Dance Director and Instructor; Director, Dance Fusion, Lower School Lead Teacher

Tel: 408.553.0563

Email: [gail.palmer@harker.org](mailto:gail.palmer@harker.org)

Kimberly Teodoro – K-8 Dance

Tel: 408.553.0563

Email: [kimberly.teodoro@harker.org](mailto:kimberly.teodoro@harker.org)



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