

# 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)

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

# 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. Our faculty love helping the shy child develop confidence and a love for music, as well as 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 K-5 students participate in weekly general music classes where they develop proper singing technique through vocal exercises and varied and fun repertoire. Rhythm instruments, Orff instruments, recorders and keyboards are explored throughout the lower school years, and annually our music classes participate in a musical performance. There are additional opportunities for students to participate after school in dance classes; our legendary dance program includes a spring dance concert with more than 200 student dancers in grades 1-5.

# Academic Day Classes

## K-3

K-3, all students engage in weekly music classes during the academic school day. Students learn musical concepts through active music-making. Students sing, play games, and learn about music all while having fun! Through our performing arts program students build a strong music



foundation preparing them for a future in vocal and instrumental music. Our students participate in yearly productions empowering them to be confident on stage and performing in front of an audience. Our kindergartners perform in a spring musical, and our first graders perform in annual holiday shows. Through our performing arts program, we instill a passion for music that students carry with them throughout their lives.

## Grade 2 & Grade 3

In grades 2 and 3 music, students build on their solid musical foundation, as they 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. Students continually work to develop proper singing technique through singing a variety of repertoire that they enthusiastically perform throughout the year.



During each year in music at Harker, students participate in a staged production to build comprehensive performing arts skills. In grades 2 and 3, students participate in a combined holiday show.

## Grades 4-5

In grade 4-5 performing arts classes, students take a multidimensional

approach to both music and theater. Lessons are designed to develop creativity and fundamental musical/theater skills, and instill a lifelong appreciation of the performing arts through experiential learning. Students build on their musical skills and concepts, learning music literacy and experiencing music making. We explore topics in music history, musical theory concepts, music appreciation, stage literacy, character development, and guide the students in experiencing musical theater.

Students in grade 4 perform for families in the spring on Grandparents' Day. Grade 5 students participate in a full-length musical theater production and sing for the grade 5 promotion at the conclusion of the year.



## 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, technical theater and instrumental music. 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 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

## BUCKNALL CHOIR

Bucknall Choir is for fourth and fifth grade students who are passionate about singing and eager to improve their musicianship skills. Students spend weekly rehearsals preparing for numerous performances and develop their vocal tone and technique through learning challenging repertoire in a variety of musical styles. Performance opportunities include Harker Day, K-12 holiday assembly, the United Voices concert, and the lower school winter and spring concerts. Bucknall Choir cultivates a passion for choral music and gives students the skills they need to continue their musical pursuits in middle school in Dynamics, Concert Choir, Harmonics, Razz and Vivace.



# Dance

Dance offers students the opportunity to explore movement, be creative, move to music and have a great time, learning new skills in our specialty dance classes, or being a part of our annual dance concert.



## Grades 1-5

Students must take after-school dance all year to be eligible to perform in the dance concert. 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.

## KINDERGARTEN

Our youngest dancers 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 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.



## 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 Bucknall throughout the year.





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