

# THE HARKER SCHOOL



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



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

### **Middle School Campus**

4525 Union Ave., San Jose, California 95124  
408.248.2510 | [www.harker.org](http://www.harker.org)



## PERFORMING ARTS @ HARKER

The performing arts department offers a comprehensive K-12 program which guides students through a multidisciplinary study of dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music, technical theater and musical theater. All of our arts experiences are offered in an environment where students can nurture their own artistic affinities and discover their creative potentials.

The skills gained and developed by the students include self-confidence, dedication and responsibility, personal and artistic expression, listening and awareness, stage presence, creativity and teamwork.

Required classes are augmented with elective offerings and after-school programs. Various groups perform at events throughout the year, and the entire performing arts department joins together several times a year to produce our family picnic, gala and holiday events.

Our performances not only provide students with rewarding opportunities to showcase their work; they richly enhance the overall community life here at Harker for all.



## GRADE 6 PERFORMING ARTS

In grade 6, students have weekly music and drama classes that focuses on music history, exploring composition, music theory and proper vocal technique. Students also work on vocal performance, preparing for their two grade-level singing events, Winterfest and Spring Sing.

## GRADE 6 COURSE OFFERINGS

The following classes are electives held during the regular school day. Please note that some elective activities are yearlong commitments and continue to meet after school when they are no longer an elective class; or LI/LII midday. The after-school schedule is compatible with concurrent participation in after-school sports and clubs.



## GRADE 6 STRING ORCHESTRA

**Description:** String Orchestra, which includes violins, violas, cellos and string basses, explores a range of chamber and orchestral repertoire while engaging in activities such as fundamental development, reading, learning songs by ear, and performing in concerts. Students may take both String Orchestra and Band. This course meets the prerequisite for Grade 7-8 Full Orchestra and Grade 7-8 Jazz Band.

**Participants:** Grade 6 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Meets three times a week as an elective class one semester and an L1 activity one semester. Multiple afternoon/evening performances throughout the school year.

## BAND

**Description:** Band, which includes woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, explores a wide range of band styles from traditional to jazz to contemporary, while engaging in activities such as fundamental development, reading, learning songs by ear, and performing in concerts. Students may take both String Orchestra and Band. This course meets the prerequisite for Grade 7-8 Jazz Band and Grade 7-8 Full Orchestra.

**Participants:** Grade 6 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Meets three times a week as an L1 activity one semester and as an elective class one semester. Multiple afternoon/evening performances throughout the school year.

## DYNAMICS (GRADE 6 CHOIR)

**Description:** Dynamics is designed for the student who loves high energy choral performing. Students sing, act and perform choreography, and are responsible for narrating several large-scale performances. Proper vocal production techniques, including support, breathing, stance, harmony and vocal projection, will be taught for singing and acting. Dynamics is a yearlong commitment.

**Participants:** Grade 6 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment as an elective during the school day; various performances throughout the year.



## GRADE 6 DRAMA

**Description:** The drama elective is an introduction to the vocabulary and practice of theater and the dramatic arts. Through acting exercises, projects, improvisation games and play writing, students explore various elements of drama and performance. Students practice what they learn in large group activities as well as individual and partner scenes. This course is equally suitable for those students new to theater or those who have already discovered a passion for it.

**Participants:** Grade 6 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Semester-long elective.

## GRADE 6 TECHNICAL THEATER DESIGN

**Description:** Students learn the fundamentals of theatrical design from concept through presentation in this semester-long course. Using sketches, drawings, models, samples and live demonstrations, students create working designs for every aspect of theater, including lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes and special effects. Specialty workshops, such as scenic painting, special effects makeup and costuming, add a practical, hands-on element to the class.



**Participants:** Grade 6 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Semester-long course meeting three times per week. Offered twice per year.



## GRADE 6 AFTER-SCHOOL OFFERINGS

In addition to the various performing arts electives that may be taken during the school day, Harker offers a variety of after-school activities that strengthen performance skills.



### **AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE AND DANCE JAMZ PRODUCTION**

**Description:** The dance program gives students the opportunity to take a dance class in several different styles of dance. Classes include: jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet, hip-hop and a boys-only class. Sessions I and III are spent working on technique and learning new skills. Session II is devoted to learning and working on performing a routine for the Dance Jamz show.

**Participants:** Grade 6-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Students will register for Session I & III dance classes. Session II students will

complete an availability form and be placed in a dance that meets Monday thru Friday, either from 4-5 p.m. or 5:15-6:15 p.m. Students wishing to participate in the Dance Jamz performance in March must take two sessions of dance. Students may take one to three dance classes a week for sessions I and III.

### **DANCE FUSION**

**Description:** Dance Fusion is an audition group comprising grade 4-6 boys and girls. The high-energy routines feature the styles of jazz, hip-hop and Latin, as well as partnering skills. Students selected are those who demonstrate good technique, stage presence, energy and commitment to dance. They need to maintain good academic and citizenship standing and be excellent role models for all students in the dance program.

**Participants:** Grade 4-6 boys and girls.

**Selection:** Auditions the first week of school.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Friday evenings and monthly weekend rehearsals. Students must be enrolled in the dance program and perform in the Bucknall Dance Concert (grades 4-5) or Dance Jamz (grade 6). The group performs at the family picnic, gala, holiday assemblies and tour.

## **AFTER-SCHOOL GRADE 6 PLAY**

**Description:** Grade 6 play is for students who wish to develop their acting skills and to perform in a nonmusical production. Participants rehearse and produce a comedy or drama which is performed for family and friends at the end of the rehearsal process.

**Participants:** Grade 6 students.

**Selection:** All sixth graders who audition are cast in the show. Information at August Kick-Off.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Rehearsals held 1-3 days per week (depending on role) after school during fall semester only; performs in early November.

## **TECHNICAL THEATER CLUB**

**Description:** Get a taste of technical theater - tech projects, mini workshops, Junior Mythbusters experiments and MacGyver contests.

**Participants:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Once per week during regular club time. Drop-ins are welcome.

## **AFTER-SCHOOL TECHNICAL THEATER CLASS**

**Description:** Weekly specialty workshops with industry professionals in such areas as prop-making, scenic art, special effects makeup, stage combat, costume construction and more. The class also includes Junior Mythbusters experiments and MacGyver contests.

**Participants:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Once per week 3:45-5 p.m. Quarter-long commitment.

## GRADE 7 & 8 ARTS REQUIREMENT



Starting in kindergarten, students have music and drama classes during the regular school day as part of their curriculum. In grade 6, students still have weekly music and drama classes and various grade-level performances including Step-Up Day and Spring Sing. However, grade 6-8 students also can choose from electives

in choir, drama, orchestra, technical theater and dance, as we believe they are now ready to determine their artistic interests. In the middle school, we are pleased to offer a selection of courses during the academic day as electives and various after-school offerings. Participation in the performing arts department is compatible with participation in other after-school programs such as debate, clubs and sports.

In grades 7-8, students have the opportunity to grow as artists as they fulfill a requirement in the arts, once during one of those years. The options are noted in this brochure. Commitments vary from workshops to a role in the spring musical and everything in between. Please note that an elective class in art also fulfills the fine and performing arts requirement.

Enjoy exploring your options in the arts at Harker's middle school!

## COURSE OFFERINGS: GRADE 7 & 8 ELECTIVES

### CONCERT CHOIR

**Description:** Concert Choir is designed for grade 7-8 students who love high-energy choir performing. Students sing the highest quality of music written for choir – from Renaissance masters to composers of the 21st century – learn choreography and participate in a number of public and school performances. Proper vocal production techniques, including support, breathing, stance, harmony and vocal projection, will be emphasized.

**Participants:** Participation in Concert Choir is a yearlong commitment.

**Selection:** Concert Choir is open to all interested grade 7-8 students.

**Basic meeting time:** Students use their elective period in semester 1 for Concert Choir and then in semester 2, students participate in Concert Choir during a practice period that takes place within the school day.



## HARMONICS

**Description:** Harmonics is a highly skilled, audition-only choir for students who love to sing, act and dance. Students study jazz, musical theater and standard choral repertoire; music theory, acting and dance; and present dynamic performances at all three campuses throughout the year and on their annual tour. Harmonics members are also part of the cast of the annual spring musical.



**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Acceptance into Harmonics is by audition only, and auditions are held in the fall. Students must be concurrently enrolled in Concert Choir.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment as an elective during the school day, plus all Mondays throughout the year from 3:15-5 p.m.; various performances throughout the year and participation in the spring musical.

## FULL ORCHESTRA

**Description:** Full Orchestra, which combines strings, winds, brass and percussion, is designed to prepare young musicians for more challenging work as ensemble members and overall musicians. The program feeds directly into the curriculum of the upper school orchestra program. Students are introduced to advanced repertoire and receive a diverse musical education ranging from techniques in listening, rhythm, music theory and music history.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** It is required that students have one year of ensemble experience or one year of music lessons. Auditions for selected instruments may be required.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Meets during L2 one semester and as an elective class one semester. Various performances throughout the year including winter and spring concerts.

## JAZZ BAND

**Description:** Jazz Band is a course designed for instrumentalists interested in jazz performance. Following the National Standards for Arts Education, students will engage in a curriculum that prioritizes creativity, musicianship, playing technique and jazz history. Course objectives include 1) reading selected repertoire, 2) improvising in a variety of tonalities, meters and style, and 3) learning repertoire by ear.



**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** It is required that students have one year of ensemble experience or one year of music lessons. Auditions for selected instruments may be required.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Meets as an elective class one semester and during L2 one semester. Various performances throughout the year including winter and spring concerts.

## VIVACE

**Description:** Vivace is a traditional mixed choir of female and male voices that is chosen by audition only in the spring. Singers learn harmonies, techniques for correct vocal production and various musical styles. Vivace performs throughout the year both on and off campus.



**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Acceptance into Vivace is by audition only. Auditions are held in the fall. Students must be concurrently enrolled in Concert Choir.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Various performances throughout the year.

## ADVANCED ACTING/SCENE STUDY

**Description:** This course is ideal for students who want to develop their acting skills using scenes and plays as their backdrop. Through games and trust-building exercises, the students work with a variety of partners to build the foundations of a collaborative learning environment. They learn basic performance skills, namely improvisation, pantomime and use of the body and voice to convey ideas and emotions. Students discover how to develop characters through improvisation exercises and informal scene work. The course culminates in more advanced acting projects, such as formal partner scenes, a short documentary-style film or a one-act play.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Class meets daily for one semester.

## THEATER PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

**Description:** Students learn the fundamentals of theatrical design from concept through presentation. Using sketches, drawings, models, samples and live demonstrations, students create working designs for every aspect of theater, including lighting, sound, scenery, props, costumes and special effects. Students

gain hands-on experience by working on projects for major productions held on the middle school campus.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Class time one semester. Students help to build the props and scenery for middle school productions. Some after-school and evening work may be required during show weeks.

## GRADE 7 & 8 AFTER-SCHOOL OFFERINGS

In addition to the various performing arts electives that may be taken during the school day, Harker offers a variety of after-school activities which strengthen performance skills. Students choosing one of these after-school activities to fulfill the fine and performing arts requirement must participate in the activity for the full commitment time noted in each description that follows.

### AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE AND DANCE JAMZ PRODUCTION

**Description:** The dance program gives students the opportunity to take a dance class in several different styles of dance. Classes include jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet, tap, hip-hop and a boys-only class. Sessions I and III are spent working on technique and learning new skills. Session II is devoted to learning and working on performing a routine for the Dance Jamz show.

**Participants:** Grade 6-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Students will register for Session I & III dance classes. Session II students will complete an availability form and be placed in a dance that meets Monday through Friday, either from 4-5 p.m. or 5:15-6:15 p.m. for participation in Dance Jamz. Students wishing to participate in the Dance Jamz performance in March must take two sessions of dance. Students may take one to three dance classes for sessions I and III. Taking a dance class Session I or III and or dancing in Dance Jamz will fulfill the performing arts requirement.

### SHOWSTOPPERS

**Description:** Showstoppers is an audition only dance troupe comprising grade 7-8 girls. The focus of this select group of dancers is dance technique, stage presence and teamwork. Students need to maintain good academic and citizenship standing.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 girls.

**Selection:** Auditions the first week of school.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Rehearses one time per week after school. Performs throughout the year and at Dance Jamz in early spring.

## HIGH VOLTAGE

**Description:** High Voltage is an audition-only dance troupe comprising grade 7-8 boys. The focus of this select group of dancers is dance technique, stage presence and teamwork. Students need to maintain good academic and citizenship standings.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 boys.

**Selection:** Auditions the first week of school.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Yearlong commitment. Rehearses one time per week after school. Performs throughout the year and at Dance Jamz in early spring.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL



**Description:** Each year the middle school produces a full-scale musical that provides performance opportunities for actors, singers and dancers. Students who audition for and are cast in the musical experience the challenges and thrills of rehearsing and producing a full-scale musical production.

**Participants:** Grade 6-8 students.

**Selection:** By audition in the second semester each year (January); open to all grade 6-8 students.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Auditions are typically held in January or early February with rehearsals beginning shortly thereafter. The musical performs in early May of each year. Rehearsals are held 1-5 days per week (depending on role) after school during the spring semester. Monday rehearsals and all tech rehearsals are mandatory. Performances are held for both student audiences and the general public, and performance in the musical, no matter what size the role, fulfills the fine and performing arts requirement.

## **CONSTRUCTION CREW FOR SPRING MUSICAL**

**Description:** Construction crew assists in building, painting and installing the set and sound equipment and preparing the stage for the spring musical.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all, but students must sign up ahead of time.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Construction crew works after school two to three weeks before the show, from 3:45-5 p.m. All students working on construction crew must complete two work calls to fulfill the arts requirement. Additional work calls for other shows during the year as opportunities arise.

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

**Description:** The production crew is responsible for helping to get the shows ready for performance. Students have the opportunity to crew Dance Jamz and the spring musical during technical rehearsals and performances. Roles include deck crew, follow spot operators, runners and prop crew.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all, but students must sign up ahead of time.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Production crew members will be required to attend rehearsals one week prior to the show they elect to work on as well as all show performances. Attendance is mandatory at these rehearsals and at all performances.

## **ARTS WORKSHOP**

**Description:** The performing and visual arts department will offer a minimum of three workshops throughout the year covering a wide array of interests. Past topics have included hip-hop dance, clowning and stage combat.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Workshop dates and times will be announced at school meetings and via email by the end of October every year. Workshops are open to all students; participation in three workshops during grades 7-8 fulfills the performing arts requirement.

## AFTER-SCHOOL FALL PLAY



**Description:** After-School Drama is for students who wish to develop their acting skills and to perform in a nonmusical production. Participants rehearse and produce a comedy or drama which is performed for their peers as well as an outside audience.

**Participants:** Grade 7-8 students.

**Selection:** Audition only; auditions held in early fall.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Rehearsals held 1-4 days per week depending on role after school during fall semester only; performs in early November.

## AFTER-SCHOOL TECHNICAL THEATER CLASS

**Description:** Weekly specialty workshops with industry professionals in such areas as prop-making, scenic art, special effects makeup, stage combat, costume construction and more. The class also includes Junior Mythbusters experiments and MacGyver contests.

**Participants:** Open to all.

**Basic meeting/performance times:** Once per week 3:45-5 p.m. Quarter-long commitment.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

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