

*The*  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CONSERVATORY  
AT HARKER



## 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)



## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSERVATORY



The Middle School Conservatory at Harker offers a comprehensive K-12 curricula that guides students through a multidisciplinary study of dance, drama, vocal music, instrumental music, technical theater and musical theater.

At Harker, performing arts is a high-level, comprehensive K-12 program that guides advanced as well as new students in the areas of vocal music, instrumental music, technical theater and musical theater. The middle school years are a perfect time to expand skills or to try something new!

All of our performing arts classes, ensembles, and performances foster students' artistic affinities in middle school and prepare them for our upper-level ensembles at The Conservatory, such as Orchestra, Cantilena, Kinetic Krew and Downbeat. Our middle school conservatory is the perfect training ground, whatever your level, and our teachers are ready to challenge and encourage all of our performers to strive for their personal best.

Through performing arts, our middle school students gain vast skills and develop self-confidence, dedication, responsibility, personal and artistic expression, listening and awareness, stage presence, creativity and teamwork.

Ensembles in vocal and instrumental music are augmented with elective offerings in acting and technical theater, and after-school performing arts features our annual play, musical and dance productions. Our ensembles perform at events throughout the year, and the entire performing arts department joins together several times a year to perform at Harker Day, Santana Row's tree lighting, and galas.

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.

## CLASS OFFERINGS: GRADE 6

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. The after-school schedule is compatible with concurrent participation in after-school sports and clubs.

### GRADE 6 STRING ORCHESTRA



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 String Orchestra and Grade 7-8 Jazz Band.

### BAND

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.



## **DYNAMICS (GRADE 6 CHOIR)**

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.



## **GRADE 6 DRAMA**

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.

## **GRADE 6 TECHNICAL THEATER DESIGN**



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.

## AFTER SCHOOL: GRADE 6

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

### AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE AND DANCE JAMZ PRODUCTION

Our dance program gives students the opportunity to take a dance class in several different styles including jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet, hip-hop and a boys-only class.



### DANCE FUSION

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.

### AFTER-SCHOOL GRADE 6 PLAY

Grade 6 play is for students who love to act in a fast paced, thrilling play and 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.

## ARTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The performing arts department, now known as The Middle School Conservatory at Harker, has exciting news! We are thrilled to announce the Arts Recognition program, honoring students at our end-of-year Awards Ceremony in May who choose to go above and beyond in classes, ensembles, workshops and productions. Top subject students in technical theater, theater, dance, musical theater, and vocal and instrumental musical will also be honored. Detailed information is provided to students each fall.

Enjoy delving into The Middle School Conservatory at Harker!

## GRADE 7-8: CLASS OFFERINGS

### CONCERT CHOIR

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. Concert Choir is a requirement to audition for Harmonics and Vivace.

### HARMONICS



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.

### ORCHESTRA

Orchestra is designed for young musicians who want challenging work as ensemble members and overall musicians. Students are introduced to advanced repertoire and receive a diverse musical education ranging from techniques in listening, rhythm, music theory and music history. The program feeds directly into the curriculum of the upper school orchestra program.

### JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band is a course designed for wind, brass and rhythm section instrumentalists interested in performing classical and jazz repertoire. 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 reading selected repertoire, improvising in a variety of tonalities, meters and style, and learning repertoire by ear.



## **VIVACE**

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



## **RAZZMATAZZ**

This fun and high-energy ensemble is open to all male identifying students who are currently enrolled in Concert Choir. Basses and tenors sing a wide variety of music from pop to barbershop and more!

## **ADVANCED ACTING/SCENE STUDY**

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 including improvisation, pantomime, mask work, and how to use the body and voice expressively. Students discover how to develop characters through a variety of methods. The course culminates in more advanced acting projects, such as formal partner scenes, monologues, short physical comedy routines or a one-act play.

## **THEATER PRODUCTION AND DESIGN**

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.

## AFTER SCHOOL: GRADE 7-8

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.

### **DANCE AND DANCE JAMZ PRODUCTION**

Dance Jamz is an annual production for students of all dance abilities. 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.

### **SHOWSTOPPERS**

Showstoppers is an audition-only lyrical dance troupe with a focus on dance technique, stage presence and teamwork. Students need to maintain good academic and citizenship standing.



### **HIGH VOLTAGE**

High Voltage is an audition-only hip-hop dance troupe focusing on dance technique, stage presence and teamwork. Students need to maintain good academic and citizenship standings.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL**



Each year the middle school produces a full-scale musical that provides performance opportunities for actors, singers and dancers to shine at the highest level!

## **CONSTRUCTION CREW FOR SPRING MUSICAL**

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

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

The production crew is responsible for running the backstage operations of the shows. Crew positions include lighting, sound, follow spot operation and deck crew.

## **ARTS WORKSHOPS**

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.



## **FALL PLAY**

Participants rehearse in the fall play rehearsal after school and produce a comedy or drama which is performed for their peers as well as an outside audience.

## **TECHNICAL THEATER CLASS**

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.

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





**HARKER**<sup>®</sup>  
*Est. 1893 · K-12 College Prep*

**The Harker School** | Middle School Campus  
4525 Union Ave., San Jose, California 95124  
408.248.2510 | [www.harker.org](http://www.harker.org)