

Welcome to the Kindergarten Orientation



Debra Cope

Primary Division Head



Agenda

- Specialized Placements
- Harker Portal
- Meet the Teachers
- Logistics
- Health Information
- Philanthropy
- Dinner

Brian Yager

Head of School





Jennifer Gargano

Assistant Head of School, Academics



Philosophy: Customized Placements for Math & Language Arts

Customizing your child's experience to optimize the learning of each child.



There are two options for how whole-class instruction is taught:

**Heterogenous and Homogenous . . .
we do both, based on discipline**

In K-6:

**Skilled-Based Courses:
Language Arts & Math**

Homogeneous

Similar performance

In K-6:

All Other Subjects

Heterogeneous

Various performances



**Increasing
customization
as
students
get older**

Gr. 9-12: English, Math, Science,
Foreign Lang, & History
*More opportunity to choose classes
based on talents & interests.*

Gr. 7-8: English, Math,
Science

K-6: English, Math

We offer > 270
courses in the upper
school, all to match
student abilities &
interests.

No 11th or 12th
grader has the same
combination of
courses.



How does K placement translate to courses in middle & upper school?

Impossible to predict because:



- Placements are fluid, and
- As students get older, their interests, motivation, & talents play a greater role in determining course placements.

To optimize our program, what we ask of parents:

1

View customized placements as **opportunities to optimize learning** vs a hierarchy or judgment.

2

Watch Your Language. Certain placements are not inherently good or bad, so please avoid characterizing them as such. **Talk about “right fit”** rather than “up” or “down.”

Therefore, please do not . . .

- Pressure teachers to change a child's placement.
- Compare placements at birthday parties and school events (not unlike salaries).

“Comparison is the Thief of Joy”

-Theodore Roosevelt

How does placement work in kindergarten?

- KDG teachers work with and assess students the first months of school.
- Teachers send a letter with placement decisions by Friday, Oct 3; in time for Back to School Night on Oct. 8.

What are the placements?

- There are 3 placements for math and language arts: P1, P2, P3. (**P** stands for **P**lacement).
- Harker's K–12 program features an advanced curriculum. All student placements are at or above the grade level expectations of most other schools.

Placements are fluid but note:

- If initial placements are not optimal, students will be moved within a month.
- Most other movements, however, will be made at the end of the school year.

Why wait for the end of the school year?

It takes time to gain necessary opportunities to develop foundational skills, such as social, SEL, & collaboration skills, as well as overall school readiness; essentials for academic growth.

To Pave A Path to Success

- Encourage a growth mindset
- Honor student progress.
- Honor your children & all Harker students
- Consider the longer-term picture
- Trust the process



Keep in mind: Parents often set the tone for a given grade-level identity



Thank you for your cooperation.

**We look forward to an amazing
kindergarten year!**

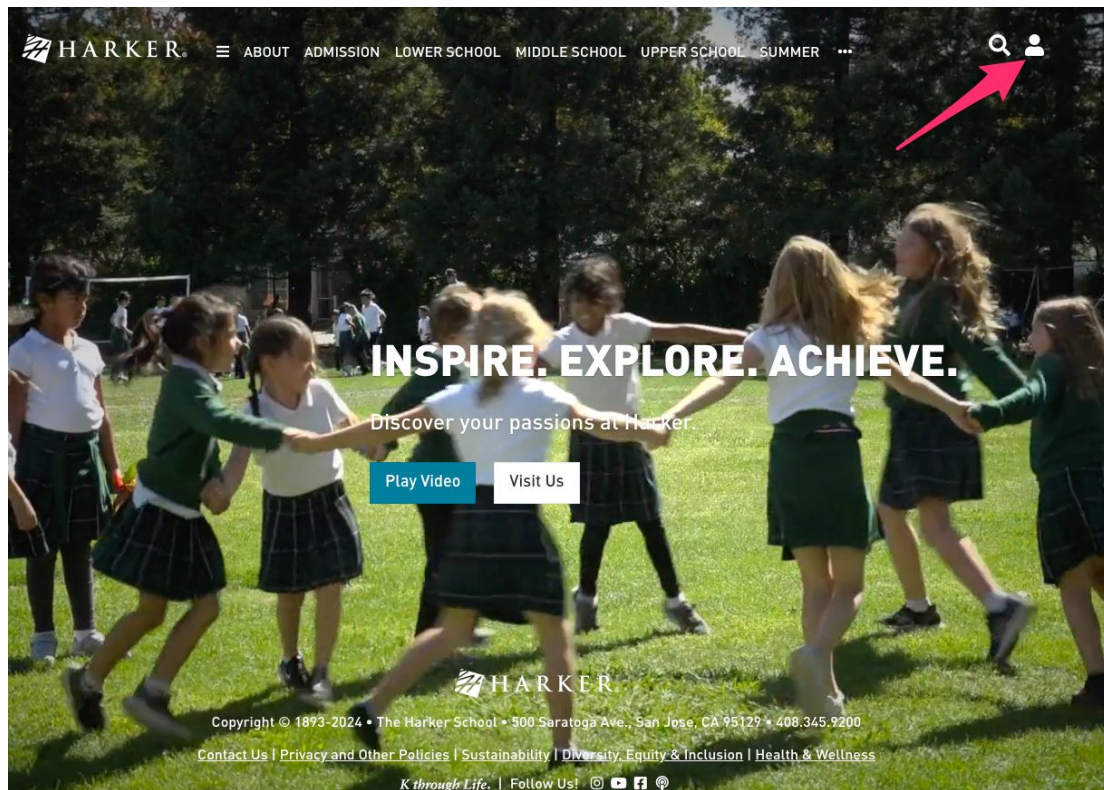


Lisa Diffenderfer

Learning, Innovation & Design Director, TK-12




Harker Parent Portal








Update Your Contact Info

The Harker School

 **HARKER®**

Est. 1893 • K-12 College Prep

Welcome, Lisa. This is your parent portal. ▼ SHOW PORTAL MENU	Portal Home	Preschool	Lower	Middle	Upper
<div> Announcements</div> <div>Upper school fall sports mandatory meeting</div> <div>The Grade 6 Musicale and LS Dance Concert now available on Harker VOD .</div> <div>Senior Showcase and MS spring musical now on Harker VOD</div> <div>Sports report ▼ Show more March 17, 2019</div>	<div> Resources</div> <div>RECENTLY POSTED</div> <div>Lower School Free/Special Dress Days</div> <div>Parent Volunteer Reimbursement Form</div> <div>Middle School Student Clubs</div> <div>Middle School Software Request Form</div> <div>▼ Show more Chamber Choir Audition Information &</div>	<div> School Calendar</div>	<div> Magnus Medical Info</div>	<div> Family & Student Information</div>	

Update Your Contact Info

Upper Division

Monday 10/07/2019

Student Directory

Update your family settings in the Student Directory [here](#)

To update your household and contact information, [please click here](#).

To access current year Report Cards and Gradebook Detail Reports, please [click here](#).

Return to the [Parent Portal](#) for the school [calendar](#).

Questions? Email: FamilyInfo@harker.org

familyinfo@harker.org

Caregiver/Student Tech Help Site

The Harker School



Est. 1893 • K-12 College Prep

Welcome, Lisa.

This is your parent portal.

▼ SHOW PORTAL MENU

Portal Home

TK

#1

Lower

Middle

Upper

#2



Lower School Announcements

Head of School: Start of School Update

Dynamics and Concert Choir feat.
Harmonics, "Telephone Hour"
performance available

Fall Textbook Purchasing - July 12

Introducing the Harker Cooking Show!

▼ Show more



Lower School Resources

RECENTLY POSTED

Lower School Caregiver and Student Help
Site

Vacations, Holidays & Key Dates 21-22

Bucknall Classroom Map

Lower Scho▼ Show more



Schoology



Lower School
Calendar



Lower School Staff
Directory



Harker News:
Lower School

Caregiver/Student Tech Help Site

Lower School Resources

#1 Type "help site"

help site

Title ▲ #2	Campus ▲	Tags ▲	Updated ▼	Download ▲
Lower School Caregiver and Student Help Site	Lower School	How-Tos, Schoology, Seesaw, Links	08/12/2021	

Caregiver/Student Tech Help Site: K-2

Caregiver & Student Help

HomeK-2 Students3-5 Students

K-2 Students

Seesaw Learning App

Please use the **NEW Seesaw Learning App** in a web browser or on your mobile device to view teachers' weekly agendas, receive teacher announcements, and view special projects your child has completed in the app.

Seesaw in a Web Browser



Seesaw Weekly Assignments Desktop	
homeroom	
MONDAY - OCTOBER 17-18	
Handwriting	• numbers
Social Studies	• map skills
Creative Writing	• landforms
Character Development	• Haunted House writing
	• Finish Empathy

Seesaw on a Mobile App



Homeroom Locations

Kindergarten:

Smith: Room 201

Mazandarani: Room 202

Lo: Room 203

Paick: Room 204

Andrea Ledford

Director, Bucknall Enrichment &
Supervision Team (BEST)



Walid Fahmy

Dean of Students



Bucknall Traffic

- Safety first
- Follow directions of security team and BEST staff
- Drive slowly
- Our neighborhood: please practice kindness, patience, and consideration
- Pick up and drop off at youngest child's loading zone.

K, Gr. 4 & 5

Front Loading Zone

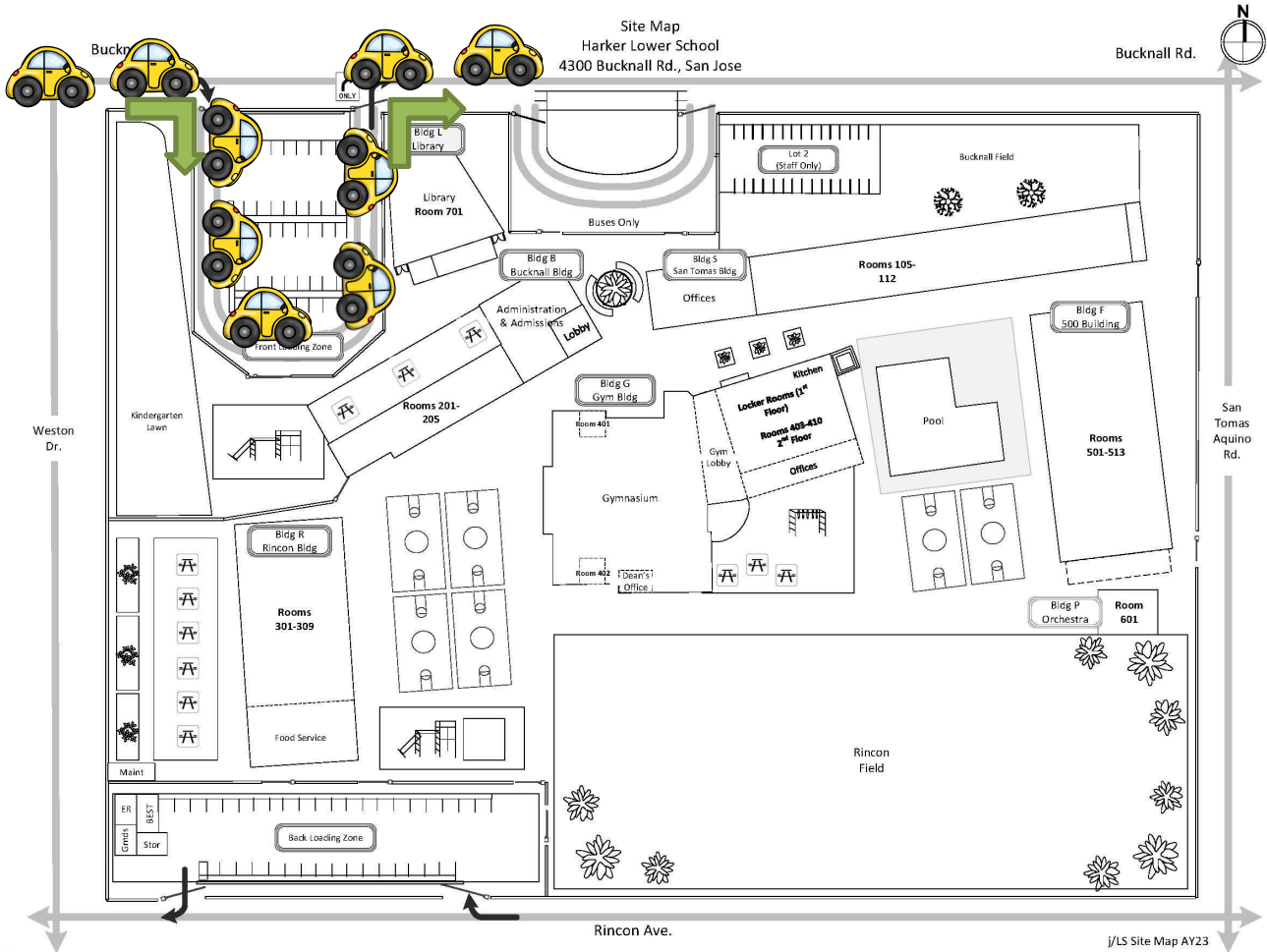
Bucknall Road



Gr. 1, 2 & 3

Back Loading Zone

Rincon Avenue



/LS Site Map AY23

Uniforms



- Friday Free Dress: approx. twice a month
- Full Dress Uniform: field trips and special occasions/assemblies
- Check calendar on parent portal and eWeekly.

Take a minute at home to review the uniform guidelines; let me know if you have any questions!

Lost & Found Reminders

- **Label** ALL items with first and last name.
- Lost & Found is collected in each play area.
- Clearly labeled items are returned to students once a week.
- Please check items that come home. You may find it belongs to someone else.
- Unlabeled items move to uniform exchange after a month.



Harker SPIRIT Day

- Every Tuesday - Oct. 4
- Wear Favorite Harker Gear
 - Shirt
 - Hoodie
 - Harker Sport Jersey
 - Any Harker-Branded Attire
- Free Dress Bottoms



GO EAGLES, GO!

The BEST Team

- Excited to care for and guide the students throughout the day!
 - Morning, Recess, Lunch, After School



Rebecca Gallegos
“Ms. Gallegos”
Administrative
Assistant



Caitlin Benge
“Ms. Caite”
Kindergarten
Division Lead



Brett Miller
“Mr. Brett”
Grades 1-3
Division Lead



Navleen Kaur
“Ms. Nav”
Grades 4-5
Division Lead

What is BEST responsible for?

BEST will care for your children anytime they are outside of the classroom. We cherish their time for play and are here for the students' safety, and social-emotional development – and their fun!

- Before and After School
- Recess and Lunch
- Lost & Found, Uniform Exchange closet, and much more!

Before School

Drop-off Times:

- Front Loading Zone (Bucknall): 7:30-8:25 a.m.
 - Back Loading Zone (Rincon): 7-7:30 a.m.
- Drive up slowly. Please have your child ready when you pull through the loading zone with belongings in the car, ready to go.



- BEST staff will welcome you, open the door and assist your child in getting out of the car
 - Now is a good time for them to begin working on those seatbelts!
 - Parents, please stay in your car.
- Students will be walked along the sidewalk to the playground gate. They will put down their belongings, and have some time to play.
- Go to homeroom at 8:25

Recess

- Please send your child with their snack for morning recess time.
- Clearly distinguish what is snack and what is lunch for those who also send home lunch.
- Children spend half their recess eating and then play for the other half.



Lunchtime

- A diverse menu - this is a time your child might try something new!
- We always encourage “no thank you bites.”



- Students will eat by homeroom.
- Two homerooms eat while two play, and then switch.

After School

When the BIG fun happens!

- Snacks
- Classes
- Free Play
- Enrichment Activities
- Pickup



After-School Timeline

- At the end of the school day, students come right out into BEST supervision & after-school



- Snacks: Harker provides snacks after school, even for those leaving at end of the school day.

- After-School Classes: Those who have a class that afternoon will be called for a meeting to line up.
- Teachers will come to pick up the students and return them at the end of class.



- Free time after school? No problem! We have many fun activities, and it's a wonderful time to get to know peers.
- Consider allowing your child to remain after school, if only for a short while, to become familiar & comfortable.
- Supervision until 6 p.m. every day.



More on After-School Classes

- Registration is now closed.
- Email LSBESTReg@harker.org with registration changes/questions.
- After-school classes begin on the second day of school: **Thurs., Aug. 28**; Instrumentals on 9/2, Dance on 9/8



- Class fees are posted to student accounts
- Please understand, cancellation requests for paid activities must be made **BEFORE the second class meeting** or you will be responsible for the associated fees.



- On the waitlist? We will contact you should a spot become available.
- Quarter system for after-school classes: multiple opportunities to try activities!



Pickup: After-School Loading Zones

- **Important:** Have your placard with you or a photo of it on your phone (BEST hack).



- When you arrive, loading zone attendant will scan the QR code.
- BEST staff supervising the children will work on getting your child to the loading zone promptly
 - In a class? Please park!

- Please be patient – it shouldn't take too long to find your child, but it does take time to pack up.
- Please stay in your car. If parking, please wait outside gate where BEST will assist you.
- Get home safe, a good night's rest, and ready for more fun the next day!

Debra Nott

Director of Health Services



NO More COVID-19 Protocol!

COVID is now treated like any other respiratory illness

Fever present: Stay home until fever free for 24 hours without taking medication (Advil, Motrin or Tylenol)

No fever: Return to school when

- Symptoms are mild and resolving
- Student is able to participate in learning
- Not coughing too much

[The Harker School] New Treatment Note for Joseph Diffenderfer



The Harker School <service@magnushealthportal.com>

Lisa Diffenderfer

Friday, August 9, 2019 at 12:54 PM

[Show Details](#)

Click on this link.

Joseph Diffenderfer has a new treatment note that has been shared with you.

To view please log in to your account by clicking the link below

<http://resources.harker.org/link/magnus-student-medical-records/>



Accessing Health Info

LOGIN

Please provide your username and password to log in:

Username

lisad



Password

.....



Login

Welcome Catherine.

This is your parent portal.

Portal Home

TK

Lower

Middle

Upper

✓ SHOW PORTAL MENU



Announcements

Videos Now Available: Orchestra
Concerts, Signing Ceremony,
Grandparents' Day, Choral Concert and
More

Ogre Awards and Just Dance Videos Now
Available

Change in COVID-19 Isolation Policy
✓ Show more



Resources

RECENTLY POSTED

Lower/Middle School Athletic Handbook

Upper School Athletic Handbook

Lower School Student/Parent Handbook

TK Parent Handbook

✓ Show more
Middle School Student/Parent Handbook



Harker Digital
Archives



School Calendar



Family & Student Information



Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion

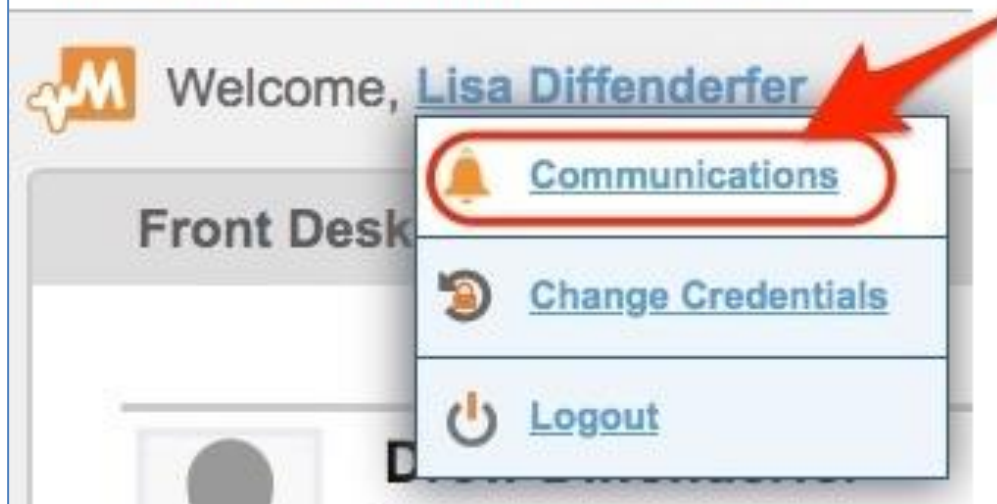


Magnus Medical
Info

Back-to-School Hub 2024



Hover your cursor over your name and then click on Communications.





Welcome, [Lisa Diffenderfer](#) ▾



[Need Help?](#)



Communications

[Go to Front Desk](#)



Print



Delete

All Messages

<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra Nott	Debra Nott Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer	Aug 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debbie Fields	Debbie Fields Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer	Jul 26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra Nott	Debra Nott Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer	Mar 26
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alanna Conrad	Alanna Conrad Shared a Treatment Note with you about Drew Diffenderfer	Aug 31



Welcome, [Lisa Diffenderfer](#) ▾



[Need Help?](#)



Communications

[Go to Front Desk](#)



Print



Delete

All Messages



Debra Nott

Debra Nott Shared a Treatment Note with you about Joseph Diffenderfer

Aug 9

Reason For Visit : Headache

Assessment : Temp 98.2. No signs of illness. No injury to the head.

Medication Administration : Tylenol -320mg

Treatment : Water

Other Treatment Given :

Other :

Disposition/Outcome : Returned to class

When did this happen? : Friday 08/09/2019 12:53 PM (5 mins)



Nurse's Phone Numbers



Office: 408.553.0562

Cell: 408.891.9683



Kim Lobe

Director of Advancement



The Advancement Team



Supporting and enhancing:

- School Community
- School Pride
- Strong Tradition of Philanthropy



Our Patagonia Partnership!



Birch White



Outerwear

Nano Puff®

Warm, windproof and water-resistant, our Nano Puff® styles are made with 100% postconsumer recycled content.

They're insulated with lightweight and highly compressible 60 g PrimaLoft® Gold Insulation Eco and wrapped in a 100% recycled polyester shell and lining. Made in a Fair Trade Certified® factory imported.

Men's Nano Puff Jacket

\$219.95 / \$622 / US, \$219.95 / \$622 / Regular / 100 g (11.4oz)



Women's Nano Puff Jacket

\$219.95 / \$622 / \$219.95 / \$622 / Regular / 100 g (11.4oz)



Men's Nano Puff Hoody

\$219.95 / \$622 / \$219.95 / \$622 / Regular / 100 g (11.4oz)



Women's Nano Puff Hoody

\$219.95 / \$622 / \$219.95 / \$622 / Regular / 100 g (11.4oz)



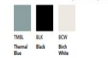
Men's Nano Puff Vest

\$199.95 / \$522 / \$199.95 / \$522 / Regular / 100 g (11.4oz)



Women's Nano Puff Vest

\$199.95 / \$522 / \$199.95 / \$522 / Regular / 100 g (11.4oz)



2024-25 Annual Fund

\$5 Million Dollars!



Matching Gifts!

**\$1.2
Million
Dollars!**



When We
Connect
we
THRIVE

An illustration of two hands reaching towards each other. The hands are colored with a gradient from blue at the wrist to purple and pink at the fingers. They are positioned horizontally, with one hand on the left and one on the right, palms facing each other. The hands are superimposed over the text 'Connect' and 'we'.

Community and Volunteers:

Your Kindergarten Room Parents

- Coordinate classroom activities that need volunteers
- Support the GLCs for grade level parties
- Support homeroom teachers

Sonali Kapoor

Ping Wang

Shallini Gupta

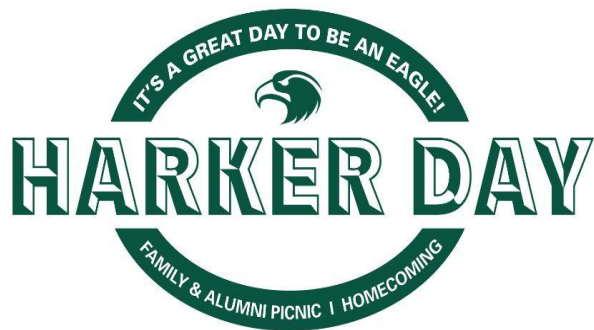
Jing Yan

Community and Volunteers:

Your Kindergarten Grade Level Coordinators

- Plan grade level coffees
- Off campus activities to bring the parent community together
- Support room parents and classroom teachers

Jenny Fandrianto
Elizabeth Wong



Save the Date!

Sat., Oct. 4, 2025

- Homecoming
- Performing Arts Shows
- Volleyball & Water polo
- Kid Zone
- Sports Clinics
- 75th Family & Alumni Picnic
- Food trucks
- Alumni Parent Connect
- Student club activities
- Alumni reunion events

www.harker.org/about/events/harker-day



Fundraising:

Supporting our Students and Teachers

Annual Giving Update

(June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026)

- Harker would not be the school it is today were it not for our culture and long-standing tradition of Philanthropy.
- Please give/volunteer/participate in proportion to your ability to do so.
- Your generosity helps provide The Margin of Excellence we are known for: academics, extra-curriculars, facilities, and long-term financial security from endowed programs.

Supporting the Annual Fund

2025-26 Kindergarten PDC Members

Janice Lin
Wenjun Yue
Phikshan Foo
Quoc-Phong Nguyenle
Shalini Jariwala

HARKER. Annual Giving

Honor Roll of Donors:
Early September

Annual Fund mailing:
Late September

Pledge Week / Phone-a-thon:
Week of Oct. 6



Harker's Strategic Plan

Joe engages our strategic ecosystem of students, parents, alumni, alumni parents and creates interest, involvement and support for our strategic plan initiatives.



Joe Rosenthal
*Executive
Director of
Strategic
Initiatives*

Debra Cope

Primary Division Head



Lana Truong '10

Academic Counselor





