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# Upper School

GRADES 9-12

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PROGRAMS  
2020-21

Information in this brochure represents our program for the previous academic year.  
The year your student enrolls, there may be slight changes to the program.

# THE HARKER SCHOOL

## UPPER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

GRADES 9-12 • 2020-21

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\*Note: Elective courses rotate, and may not be offered every year.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Harker strives to create lifelong learners. Curious and thoughtful students encounter a multitude of opportunities in and out of the classroom, sparking discovery throughout their time at our upper school. From the basketball court to the debate podium, from the research lab to the stage, and in so many other ways, students discover their unique paths with the opportunity to explore each interest in depth. We advocate for students finding balance among their commitments with our wellness program, advisors, counselors, extensive teacher office hours, and block schedule. Engaging teachers and classmates truly care for each other and create a warm and supportive community. Harker graduates are more than ready to take their place as global citizens and leaders.

These pages are intended to, in one place, convey the vast possibilities to craft an experience unique to you. Enjoy learning about the possibilities!

## LIFE AND WELLNESS

### PURPOSE

LIFE at Harker stands for Living with Intent, Focus and Enthusiasm, and these tenets inform the skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary to ethically and compassionately respond to everyday decisions and challenges. During these formative years, a student's personal growth happens in relation to others, from teachers and peers to coaches and staff members. LIFE models forming such vital connections through our work with well-established organizations such as Challenge Success, Common Sense Media and Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD).

### LIFE SESSIONS

The purpose of LIFE sessions is to designate a time for students at each grade level to engage with professionals and other knowledgeable adults on topics vital to their overall development into healthy, happy and successful adults. Topics vary by grade and from year to year so that students are receiving the most pertinent, up-to-date information. All LIFE sessions are mandatory. General topics include:

- Decision-making
- Sexuality
- Mindfulness
- Substance abuse
- Healthy relationships
- Planning for a positive high school experience
- Alumni Q&A
- Digital awareness
- Distracted driving

### WORKSHOPS

Workshops are held periodically for students to join voluntarily. The workshops are typically 30 minutes in length and occur during the days that the student body has an hour and a half lunch break. General topics include:

- Adulthood 101
- Female wellness
- Male wellness
- Self defense
- Mindfulness
- Time management
- College preparation with alumni

### EAGLE BUDDIES

Each year grade 10 students are paired with grade 3 students to be Eagle Buddies. These buddies will remain together throughout the following three years. The upper school and lower school Eagle Buddies have three opportunities each year to get together to have lunch, play games and enjoy various activities. The buddies write each other several times each year.

### PARENT EDUCATION

One thing is certain in childhood and adolescence: change is constant. As such, the challenge for parents is to continually evolve to meet the unique needs of their child in order to remain supportive of their unique development. At The

Harker School, we believe that parents and teachers are partners in this journey. On our website and in our libraries, we offer parenting resources that could be valuable in meeting typical developmental opportunities. We provide digital family resources and regular presentations from our learning, innovation and design directors about media and digital literacy. We also provide parent presentations regarding normal developmental growth and challenges such as managing stress and current topics of teen culture.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The following is a list of the clubs, societies and programs. Lists may vary slightly each year, especially for clubs.

### CLUBS

ACS Chem Club  
 Art Club  
 Artificial Intelligence Club  
 Astronomy Club  
 Bollywood Club  
 Book Club  
 Business Analytics Club  
 Calligraphy Club  
 Car Club  
 Contemporary Hip Hop Club  
 Cooking Club  
 E-Sports Club  
 Ethics in Technology  
 F.E.M. Club  
 Friendship Bracelet Club  
 Future Problem Solvers  
 Green Team  
 GSA  
 HarkerDev  
 HELM  
 Horizon Publication  
 Interact  
 JCL  
 Junior State of America

Key Club  
 Law Club  
 Language and Linguistics  
 LaunchX  
 Make a Birthday Wish  
 Marine Bio Club  
 Medical Club  
 Multimedia Club  
 Philosophy Club  
 Podcast Network  
 Power of Words  
 Programming Club  
 Psychology Club  
 Quiz Bowl  
 Random Acts of Kindness  
 Red Cross  
 Science Competitions Club  
 Silicon Valley Club  
 Socio-Economics Club  
 Spirit Club  
 Students Partnered with Veterans  
 Spectrum (A Capella)  
 Tutoring Club  
 UNICEF  
 UnPlugged

Voices for Youth  
 Wildlife and Nature Photography  
 WiSTEM  
 Writer's Advocate

### PROGRAMS

Career Connect  
 DECA  
 Economics Program  
 Honor Council  
 Junior Classical League  
 Math Competitions  
 Research Program  
 Robotics Team  
 Spirit Leadership  
 TedX

### SOCIETIES

Chinese National Honor Society  
 French National Honor Society  
 Japanese National Honor Society  
 National Honor Society  
 Oeconomia  
 Spanish National Honor Society  
 Tri-M Music Society

## COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS

Harker students benefit from our talented coaching staff and athletic trainers. We field more than 40 teams in 15 different sports. These are Harker's competitive sports which do earn students .5 credit of P.E. per season. For non-competitive P.E. options, see page 8.

### FALL SPORTS

Cheerleading  
 Cross country  
 Football  
 Golf - girls  
 Tennis - girls  
 Volleyball - girls  
 Water polo

### WINTER SPORTS

Basketball - boys  
 Basketball - girls  
 Cheerleading  
 Soccer - boys  
 Soccer - girls

### SPRING SPORTS

Baseball  
 Golf - boys  
 Lacrosse - girls  
 Softball  
 Swimming  
 Track & field  
 Tennis - boys  
 Volleyball - boys

# SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

A Schedule	B Schedule	C Schedule	D Schedule
Period 1 8:00 AM - 9:25 AM 85 Minutes	Period 5 8:00 AM - 9:25 AM 85 Minutes	Period 1 8:00 AM - 9:25 AM 85 Minutes	Period 5 8:00 AM - 9:25 AM 85 Minutes
Passing 9:25-9:35 AM	Passing 9:25 - 9:35 AM	Passing 9:25-9:35 AM	Passing 9:25 - 9:35 AM
Period 2 9:35 AM - 11:00 AM 85 Minutes	School Meeting 9:35-10:05 AM 30 Minutes	Period 4 9:35 AM - 11:00 AM 85 Minutes	Advisory 9:35-10:05 AM 30 Minutes
	Office Hours 10:05-10:35 AM 30 Minutes		Office Hours 10:05-10:35 AM 30 Minutes
	Passing 10:35-10:45 AM		Passing 10:35-10:45 AM
Passing 11:00-11:10 AM	Period 6 10:45 AM - 12:10 PM 85 Minutes	Passing 11:00-11:10 AM	Period 7 10:45 AM - 12:10 PM 85 Minutes
Class Mtg 11:10-11:25		Class Mtg 11:10-11:25	
Lunch 11:10 AM - 11:55 PM 45 minutes		Lunch 11:10 AM - 11:55 PM 45 minutes	
Passing 11:55-12:00		Passing 11:55-12:00	
Period 3 12:00 PM - 1:25 PM 85 Minutes	Passing 12:10- 12:20	Period 2 12:00 PM - 1:25 PM 85 Minutes	Passing 12:10- 12:20
	Lunch 12:20 PM - 1:30 PM 70 minutes		Lunch 12:20 PM - 1:30 PM 70 minutes
Passing 1:25-1:35 PM	Passing 1:30-1:35 PM	Passing 1:25-1:35 PM	Club Leadership 1:00-1:30 PM
Period 4 1:35 PM - 3:00 PM 85 Minutes	Period 7 1:35 PM - 3:00 PM 85 Minutes	Period 3 1:35 PM - 3:00 PM 85 Minutes	Period 6 1:35 PM - 3:00 PM 85 Minutes
Passing 3:00-3:10	Passing 3:00-3:10	Passing 3:00-3:10	Passing 3:00-3:10
See Collaboration Schedule	See Collaboration Schedule	See Collaboration Schedule	See Collaboration Schedule

School begins every day at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Our block schedule rotates through four different schedules and any schedule can occur on any day of the week. For example, if the week begins with an A schedule it ends on Friday with the A schedule and starts with the B schedule on Monday. Classes meet every other day for 85 minutes each, allowing for in-depth discussion and a variety of teaching methods.

- Great access to teachers and extra help during office hours. Teachers are in their rooms to meet with any students every other day for 30 minutes, after school every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- 10-minute passing periods to allow time to relax and refocus for next class.
- Extra period options, such as journalism or orchestra, meet during the school day during a class period.
- Long lunch periods of 70 minutes every other day, which is also a time that clubs meet.
- Advisory is group of 8-10 students who meet during D days with a teacher. The advisory stays together all four years and is great for downtime and developing a close bond with a diverse group.
- School meeting is an opportunity for the whole school to gather as a community to share important news.
- Class meeting offers each grade level a separate opportunity to address matters salient to their smaller community.

## AREAS OF STUDY

### BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Principles of Business and Entrepreneurship  
Business Leadership  
Honors Entrepreneurship: Startup Incubator I and II  
Economics\*  
Behavioral Economics\*  
AP Economics (Micro and Macro)  
Honors Advanced Topics in Economics: Game Theory\*  
Honors Advanced Topics in Economics: Econometrics

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

Digital World\*  
Programming\*  
Advanced Programming\*  
Robotics Principles: Hardware\*  
AP Computer Science A  
AP Computer Science with Data Structures  
Honors Data Structures\*

Honors Advanced Topics in Computer Science\*  
(fall and spring)  
Topics Offered:

- Compilers and Interpreters
- Computer Architecture
- Expert Systems
- Neural Networks ♦♦
- Numerical Methods ♦♦
- Programming Languages
- Robot Kinematics Software ♦♦

♦♦ symbol indicates course is calculus intensive

### ENGLISH

English 1: The Study of Literary Genres  
English 2: A Survey of British Literature  
English 3: A Survey of American Literature  
Honors English 1: The Study of Literary Genres  
Honors English 2: A Survey of British Literature  
Honors English 3: A Survey of American Literature

ELECTIVE CLASSES: English senior electives are semester-long classes and rotate each year.

Every elective may not be offered every year.

AP English: Literature and Composition (year-long class)

English 4:

20th-Century American Drama  
20th-Century American Poetics  
Art of Poetry and Fiction  
Asian Masterpieces  
Gothic Literature: Vampires and the Macabre  
The Graphic Narrative  
Great Novels

Jack Kerouac and the Beat Generation  
Justice in Literature  
Literature into Film  
Literature of the Holocaust  
Madness in Literature  
Modern European Drama  
Mystery and Detective Fiction  
Postmodern Literature  
Satire and Comedy  
Shakespeare — Comedies, Tragedies and Romances  
Southern Fiction  
Speculative Fiction and Society: Science Fiction and Fantasy  
A Study of Short Fiction

\* = semester-long class

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## GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

### YEARLONG (1.0 units):

Arabic Language through Culture I  
Arabic Language through Culture II  
Chinese Language through Culture I  
Japanese Language through Culture I  
Japanese Language through Culture II  
Multivariable Calculus

### SEMESTER-LONG:

Applying Philosophy to Global Issues  
Business Problem-Solving  
Creative Nonfiction  
Filmmaking  
International Relations  
Introduction to Investments  
Introduction to Legal Thinking  
Microeconomics  
Number Theory  
Poetry Writing  
Problem-Solving with Engineering Design  
Race & Society  
Social Psychology  
Bioethics

Computer Science I: Computational Thinking

Global Health

Graphic Design

9/11 in a Global Context

Abnormal Psychology

Advocacy

Architecture

Climate Changes & Global Inequality

Computer Science II: Analyzing Data with Python

Computer Science II: Game Design and Development

Computer Science II: Java

Digital Photography

Entrepreneurship in a Global Context

Fiction Writing

Game Theory

Gender Studies

Genocide and Human Rights

Graphic Design

Linear Algebra

Macroeconomics

Medical Problem-Solving II

Neuropsychology

Prisons and the Criminal Law

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## HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

### Required Courses - Grade 9

World History 1: Early Civilizations through the Renaissance or World History 1 Honors

### Required Courses - Grade 10

World History 2, World History 2 Honors, AP World History, or AP European History

### Required Courses - Grade 11

U.S. History, Honors U.S. History, or AP U.S. History

### YEARLONG ELECTIVES:

AP Art History

AP Psychology

AP United States Government and Politics

### SEMESTER ELECTIVES:

History of the Holocaust and Genocide\*

Honors Modern International Affairs\*

Psychology\*

Western Political Thought and Philosophy\*

World Religions and Philosophy\*

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## JOURNALISM

Journalism: Yearbook Concentration

Advanced Journalism: Yearbook Concentration

Journalism: Newspaper Concentration

Advanced Journalism: Newspaper Concentration

\* = semester-long class



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## MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1  
Algebra 2 & Trigonometry  
Honors Algebra 2 & Trigonometry  
Geometry  
Honors Geometry  
Precalculus  
Honors Precalculus  
Finite Mathematics  
Calculus  
AP Calculus AB  
Honors Calculus C with Multivariable Calculus  
AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics  
Honors Multivariate Calculus\*  
Honors Differential Equations\*  
Honors Linear Algebra\*  
Honors Discrete Mathematics\*  
Engineering\*  
Honors Advanced Topics in Mathematics\*  
Topics Offered:  
• Information Theory I and II\*  
• Signals and Systems  
• Differential Equations II

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## MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

### SPANISH

Spanish 1  
Spanish 2  
Honors Spanish 2  
Spanish 3  
Honors Spanish 3  
Spanish 4: Advanced Conversation and Composition  
Honors Spanish 4  
AP Spanish Language and Culture  
AP Spanish Literature and Culture  
Literature and Film of the Spanish-Speaking World\*  
Contemporary Issues in the Spanish-Speaking World\*  
The Latin American Short Story\*

### FRENCH

French 1\*\*  
French 2  
French 3  
Honors French 3  
French 4: Advanced Conversation and Composition  
Honors French 4  
AP French Language & Culture  
French Prose\*  
French Literature & Film\*  
Honors Advanced Topics in French: Renaissance & Classical Literature\*  
Honors Advanced Topics in French: Romantic & Modern Literature\*

### JAPANESE

Japanese 1\*\*  
Japanese 2  
Japanese 3  
Honors Japanese 3  
Japanese 4  
Honors Japanese 4  
Japanese 5  
Contemporary Japan  
AP Japanese Language and Culture

### LATIN

Latin 1\*\*  
Latin 2  
Latin 3  
Honors Latin 3  
Latin 4: Advanced Study of Roman Prose and Poetry  
AP Latin  
Honors Advanced Latin Literature: Epic\*  
Honors Advanced Latin Literature: Satire\*  
Honors Advanced Latin Literature: Prose\*  
Honors Advanced Latin Literature: Lyric Poetry\*

### CHINESE

Mandarin 1\*\*  
Mandarin 2  
Mandarin 3  
Honors Mandarin 3  
Mandarin 4  
Honors Mandarin 4  
AP Chinese Language and Culture

\* = semester-long class    \*\* = Level 1 offered if enough students enroll

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### NONCOMPETITIVE

Capoeira\*  
Personal Fitness (P.E. and Weightlifting)\*  
Yoga\*

### ACADEMIC COURSES IN P.E.

Kinesiology and Sports Medicine 1  
Kinesiology and Sports Medicine 2

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## SCIENCE

Required Courses - Grade 9  
    Physics or Honors Physics  
Required Courses - Grade 10  
    Chemistry, Honors Chemistry or AP Chemistry  
Required Courses - Grade 11  
    Biology, Honors Biology or AP Biology

### ELECTIVE CLASSES

Honors Analytical Chemistry\*  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics 2

AP Physics C  
Astronomy\*  
Biotechnology\*  
Electronics\*  
Evolution\*  
Honors Human Anatomy and Physiology  
Honors Nanoscience\*  
Marine Biology\*  
Research Methods  
Advanced Research Methods\*  
The Science of Food\*  
Seminar in Modern Physics\*  
Study of Organic Chemistry\*

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## SPEECH AND DEBATE

Introduction to Speech and Debate  
Intermediate & Competitive Speech and Debate  
    Lincoln-Douglas  
    Individual Events

Public Forum  
Congressional Debate  
Policy Debate

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## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

### PERFORMING ARTS

REQUIRED COURSES  
(One of the following full-year courses)  
Study of Dance  
Study of Music  
Study of Theater Arts  
Study of Visual Arts  
AP Art History

### ELECTIVE COURSES

Advanced Acting\*  
Scene Study\*:  
    Advanced Scene Study  
    Vocal Interpretation  
    Shakespeare in Performance  
Student-Directed Showcase\*  
Acting for the Camera\*  
Technical Theater\*  
Music Fundamentals\*  
AP Music Theory  
Bel Canto  
Camerata  
Cantilena

Downbeat  
JV and Varsity Dance Troupes  
Dance Composition\*  
Performance Practice for Dancers\*  
Choreography\*  
Lab Band  
Jazz Band  
Orchestra  
Performance Practice for Instrumentalists\*

### VISUAL ARTS

Architecture\*  
Ceramics\*  
Advanced Ceramics\*  
Drawing\*  
Advanced Drawing\*  
Graphic Arts\*  
Advanced Graphic Arts\*  
Painting\*  
Advanced Painting\*  
Photography\*  
Advanced Photography\*  
Sculpture\*

\* = semester-long class

Advanced Sculpture\*  
Stone Carving\*  
Advanced Stone Carving\*

Filmmaking  
AP Studio Art (Drawing, 2-D & 3-D)  
Honors Art: Directed Portfolio\*

### **CONSERVATORY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Students especially interested in the performing arts may apply for participation in the Harker Conservatory Certificate program in one of the following areas: dance, instrumental music, vocal music, acting, musical theater or technical theater. To receive the certificate, students engage in a rigorous four-year program; they are guided through a comprehensive course of study in all of the performing arts, with special emphasis in the discipline of the student's choice. Program requirements include courses and workshops in disciplines other than the student's emphasis, involvement in productions/ensembles/festivals, sophomore juries and through live performance critiques in a variety of genres, including dramas, musicals and concerts. The program culminates in the senior year with a final presentation to the faculty advisory panel and a formal performance of pieces from the student's portfolio, accompanied by the presentation of the Certificate. Most Conservatory requirements do not appear on the transcript.

## **ADVANCED CURRICULUM**

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT™ COURSES**

AP English Literature & Composition  
AP U.S. History  
AP U.S. Government & Politics  
AP European History  
AP World History  
AP Psychology  
AP Economics - Macro  
AP Economics - Micro  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Statistics  
AP Spanish Language & Culture  
AP Spanish Literature  
AP French Language & Culture  
AP Japanese Language & Culture  
AP Chinese Language & Culture

AP Latin  
AP Chemistry\*  
AP Biology\*  
AP Physics 2  
AP Physics C  
    Mechanics  
    Electricity & Magnetism  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Computer Science  
AP Art History  
AP Music Theory  
AP Studio Art  
    2-D Design  
    3-D Design  
    Drawing

\* *Students who enroll directly into AP Chemistry or AP Biology without previous study of that subject in high school are required to complete a summer course.*

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## POST-ADVANCED PLACEMENT™ COURSES

*These courses require completion of an AP Course as a prerequisite.*

### **Advanced Topics in Computer Science:**

Honors Data Structures  
Computer Architecture  
Compilers and Interpreters  
Expert Systems  
Robot Kinematics Software  
Programming Languages  
Numerical Methods  
Neural Networks

### **Honors Multivariable Calculus**

### **Honors Linear Algebra**

### **Honors Differential Equations**

### **Honors Discrete Math**

### **Honors Advanced Topics in Mathematics:**

Number Theory  
College Geometry  
Signal & Systems  
Differential Equations II

### **Honors Advanced Topics in French:**

Renaissance & Classical Literature  
Romantic & Modern Literature

### **Honors Advanced Latin Literature:**

Epic  
Satire  
Lyric Poetry  
Prose

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

The curriculum at The Harker School is composed of a core of required courses which forms the basis of a strong liberal arts education. A broad array of elective offerings, particularly in the senior year, helps to meet the individual needs and interests of students. As a college preparatory school, Harker provides each student with a personal course of study which is challenging but which also offers extensive extracurricular opportunities. Our extensive offering of clubs, activities, sports and performance opportunities beyond the classroom are critical pieces of the Harker educational experience.

### **Developing a Curriculum Plan**

Students are asked in the freshman year to develop, with the guidance of the academic dean/pre-college counselor, a four-year plan that satisfies the graduation requirements as well as their personal education goals. The purpose of this plan is to ensure that students will think through all elective choices carefully. This use of elective courses will help students explore areas of interest and possibly develop depth in those areas of study which most appeal to them. Careful planning helps students avoid being unable to take desired subjects because they have run out of time in their schedules. Advance planning also allows students to make sure they will be prepared for important college admissions exams such as the SAT Subject Tests. Students will make revisions to their plans in subsequent years, but it is important always to have a realistic plan that extends to graduation.

### **Graduation Requirements**

To graduate from The Harker School students must:

- complete at least 22 academic credits which must include all required courses and credit totals within each department;
- complete at least two credits (four semesters or seasons) of physical education credit;
- complete the 30-hour community service requirement described in the student/parent handbook; and
- abide by the behavior expectations described in the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct in the student/parent handbook.

Academic credit is only given for courses taken at Harker.

## Academic Planning Chart with Graduation Requirements

The following chart will be used when the students meet with the academic dean/pre-college counselor to create the four-year plan. It graphically shows the requirements as well as the slots available for the required (shaded) and elective (not shaded) courses. Students must take a minimum of five academic classes (always including English) for each of their eight semesters and a maximum of six academic classes. The Extra Period Option courses are not included in this five/six class requirement, but students do earn a grade and one half credit for the year in most (but not all) of these courses. See the course description section for more details, including credit information, on the Extra Period Options which include music (Bel Canto, Downbeat, Cantilena, Camerata, Orchestra and Jazz Band), Dance (JV and Varsity), Journalism (Newspaper and Yearbook), Speech and Debate (Introductory and Competitive), and Business and Entrepreneurship (Principles, Advanced and Business Leadership). There is no grade for P.E., but students may take a P.E. class during the school day in this Extra Period Option course slot.

		9th	10th	11th	12th	Graduation Requirements
<b>Up to Six Academic Classes</b>	<b>English</b>	English 1: The Study of Literary Genres	English 2: British Lit	English 3: American Lit	English 4: 2 semester courses or AP English Lit	4 years
	<b>Math</b>					3 years 4 recommended
	<b>Science</b>	Physics	Chemistry	Biology		3 years
	<b>History</b>	World 1	World 2, AP World, or AP European	United States		3 years
	<b>Language</b>					Complete Level 3
<b>Non-Academic Classes or Free Period</b>	<b>Arts / Computer Science</b>	Study of Visual Arts, Technical Theater, Music, Dance or Theater Arts				Arts – 1 year Comp Sci – 1 sem
	<b>Extra Period Option</b>	Your choice				
	<b>Total Credits (min)</b>	6	5–6	5–6	5–6	<b>22 credits minimum</b>

### English – 4 years/8 semesters

The first three years have a set curriculum. The senior year students take AP English Literature or choose two semester-long courses from a list with many options.

### Mathematics – 3 years/6 semesters

Students must complete a minimum of three years of mathematics in the upper school and have completed the following courses: Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2/Trigonometry. We strongly recommend that students take four years of mathematics.

### **Science – 3 years/6 semesters**

The three years have a set curriculum and order – Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

### **History – 3 years/6 semesters**

The first and third years are set with, respectively, World History 1 and U.S. History. The second year students choose between World History 2, Honors World History 2, AP World History or AP European History.

### **Foreign Language – completion of level 3**

Students must pass a level 3 or higher course to satisfy this requirement. This does not necessarily require three years of study in the upper school. While we encourage students to continue beyond level 3, and many do, it is not required.

### **Study of the Arts – 1 year**

Students must take a yearlong course in the arts, generally in the freshman year. Students choose between Study of Visual Arts, Study of Theater Arts, Study of Music and Study of Dance. Students may instead take AP Art History in grades 10-12 if they qualify and are approved; most upperclassmen who enjoy this challenging course take it as an elective in addition to the Study of the Arts course as a freshman.

### **Computer Science – 1 semester**

Students must complete one semester of computer science in a course that emphasizes algorithmic thinking. Most satisfy this requirement with Digital World, Programming or Advanced Programming, but students with significant prior in-class course work may test directly into AP Computer Science or APCS with Data Structures (both yearlong courses).

### **Electives – as necessary**

Students choose electives as desired to ensure a minimum of five and a maximum of six academic courses at all times and a total of 22 credits by graduation.

### **Physical Education – 4 semesters (or sports seasons)**

Though ungraded, students must complete four semester-long P.E. courses or participate in competitive after-school sports for four seasons. Students can take a P.E. class during the day (instead of having a free period), or students can sign up for an after-school P.E. class. At a minimum, one P.E. class or sports season should be completed each year.

## **COLLEGE COUNSELING**

Harker's college counseling office helps students and families navigate the college search and admission process. We strive to alleviate some of the stress often associated with college admission and to ensure that each student has options for where to attend. College counseling is available to students all four years. For example, the academic dean meets with freshmen and their families to learn about their interests and craft a four-year academic plan.

### **PARENT COLLEGE NIGHTS**

Several College Nights educate parents of all grade levels about the current college admission scene and keep them informed of the progress of their students.

### **INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS**

Beginning in the second semester of the junior year, college counselors meet individually with students and parents. During the family meetings, the student's academic record, interests and goals are discussed. During the individual appointments with students, college counselors seek to learn about the student's personal and academic interests, explore possible college choices, and discuss expectations for the college search and college admission process. Meetings with students and parents continue in the senior year, so we can provide guidance and feedback on applications and help students with their final college decisions.

### **WEEKLY COLLEGE COUNSELING CLASSES**

During the second semester of the junior year and the first semester of the senior year, students meet weekly for College Counseling Class, which introduces all of the important college admissions topics. These include: evaluating colleges; staying calm and organized; early action and early decision; the University of California; writing college essays; and having productive college visits and interviews.

### **COLLEGE VISITS TO HARKER**

The college counseling office welcomes about 100 college admission representatives to the school each year. Seniors are encouraged to attend these presentations to learn more about the colleges and ask general questions of their representatives.



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