HARKER®

Middle School

GRADES 6-8

ACADEMIC PROGRAM
2016-17

SCIENTIA • CONSTANTIA • BENEFICIUM
PRAESTANTIA •
Est. HARKER 1893

THE HARKER SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

GRADES 6-8 · 2016-17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ENGLISH

The English curriculum encompasses the four areas of grammar, vocabulary development, formal writing and literature study. Three levels of each English course are taught, with a student's placement designed to enhance strengths and develop and support weaker areas. Ongoing evaluation through the year ensures flexibility, and students are moved between levels as warranted. Grammar skills encompass learning the parts of speech and components of strong sentences, with additional focus on syntax within various types of sentence structure. Vocabulary is taught through an online program that emphasizes multiple modalities of learning and the incorporation of new words into the students' own personal lexicons. Literary concepts such as theme, conflict, foreshadowing and metaphor are taught and analyzed, and provide a foundation for analytical writing.

Reading Selections

Grade 6:
Short stories, poetry, *The Little Prince* and *The Pearl*.

Grade 7:
Short stories, poetry, *Julius Caesar* or *King Henry V*, *Animal Farm* and *Fahrenheit 451*.

Grade 8:
Short stories, poetry, *Romeo and Juliet* and *To Kill a Mockingbird or The Old Man and the Sea*.

Expository Writing
As writing is an essential skill, students in grades 7 and 8 take this course for one semester each year, in addition to their English classes. The course is designed to encourage organization, evaluative and critical-thinking skills. A strong emphasis is placed on coherence, support, unit and sentence structure.

MATHEMATICS

The curriculum allows for flexibility and a wide range of skill levels. Each student is enrolled in the course which best fits his/her needs, regardless of grade level. Flexible groupings give students the opportunity to be consistently challenged.

Please note: More advanced courses are available for students needing a math class beyond PreCalculus Honors.

Pre-Algebra A & Pre-Algebra B:
Pre-Algebra A and Pre-Algebra B is a two-year pre-algebra sequence that prepares students for a study of Algebra 1 topics. Key strands include algebra, simplifying/evaluating expressions, problem-solving with linear equations/inequalities, ratio and proportion, linear functions, percents, measurement, area and volume, probability, polynomials, geometric constructions, right triangle relationships, angle relationships and transformations and data analysis with TI applications.

Pre-Algebra Honors:
This course is a one-year preparation for a study of Algebra 1 topics. Key strands include algebra, simplifying/evaluating expressions, problem-solving with linear equations/inequalities, ratio and proportion, linear functions, percents, measurement, area and volume, probability, polynomials, geometric constructions, right triangle relationships, angle relationships and transformations and data analysis with TI applications.

Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Honors:
This is a rigorous, first-year algebra course with emphasis on theory and application beyond mechanical processes. The concepts taught include solving a system of equations, factoring quadratic polynomials, solving polynomial equations, functions, word problems related to work, cost and mixture. The course also uses the TI-84 calculator to help students visually understand graphing. Problem-solving is integral to both regular and honors level courses.

Geometry and Geometry Honors:
This course in Euclidean geometry, taken after Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors, aims to present geometry to students as a problem-solving course. It also aims to help students acquire skills in making logical conclusions and developing their visual spatial skills. By the end of the course students are able to write narrative proofs and two-column proofs; solve problems related to geometry; demonstrate skills in using auxiliary figures in solving geometric problems; list properties of special geometric elements such as triangles, parallel lines, circles, quadrilaterals and platonic solids; construct geometric figures using a straight edge and compass. In addition the course uses Geometer's Sketchpad software to strengthen the understanding of concepts with visual effects.

Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors:
This is a second-year advanced algebra class, taken after Geometry. Apart from solidifying the concepts learned in Algebra 1, the course involves applications of algebraic concepts, analysis of information, making conjectures and giving convincing arguments to prove statements.

Topics covered include polynomials, quadratic functions, analytic geometry, logarithms, sequences and series, and triangle trigonometry including laws of sines and cosines. There is an emphasis on extensions of ideas and concepts and on problem-solving.

Pre-Calculus Honors:
Students who have completed Algebra 2 and Geometry are eligible to take this course. The focus in the course is on analyzing information beyond what is stated. Explorations form an important part of this course where the topics taught include exponential and logarithmic functions, analytic trigonometry, applications of trigonometry, and graphs of polar equations. Use of computer software such as Mathematica is also an integral part of the Pre-Calculus Honors class.

Grades 7-8 Math Elective:
Students are exposed to different kinds of contest problems that are challenging and exciting at the same time. They work on problems independently as well as in teams. This math course will help students better understand problem-solving that is a critical part of all math contests. All students in this class participate in contests hosted by various organizations including the Math Olympiad for Elementary and Middle Schools, American Scholastic Mathematics Association and the Rocket City Math League. Eight students from this class will be selected to represent The Harker School in the MATHCOUNTS competition. Students are selected for this elective based on their scores on the entrance test, their interest in solving challenging problems, performance in their math classes and recommendations from math teachers.

SCIENCE

The science curriculum develops an understanding and application of the scientific method through interactive hands-on student experiences. Both regular and honors-level courses are part of the curriculum for grades 7-8.

Grade 6:
Earth Science topics include the scientific method, metrics, laboratory safety, meteorology, scale models and experimental design, geology and astronomy.

Grade 7:
Chemistry and physics are two of the areas explored. Topics include general properties of matter, physical and chemical changes, elements, compounds, atoms, the periodic table, bonding, chemical reactions, radioactivity, motion, forces, work, simple machines, heat, waves, sound and light.

Grade 8:
Biology, with an emphasis on human anatomy and physiology. Topics include biochemistry, cell biology, classical and molecular genetics, evolution, and human body systems.

A science research class is also available after school to interested eighth graders. Students will learn best practices as they relate to science research and will develop a research project under the guidance of a mentor.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 6: Ancient History
This course will expose students to early, ancient and pre-modern history in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe. Through a close examination of early civilizations students will recognize how people evolved from hunters and gatherers to members of highly advanced civilizations. Students will understand how geography and the trade of goods, ideas, religion and even disease influenced the rise and fall of entire cultures and civilizations.

Grade 7: World Studies
The course will give students a survey of historical events and cultural evolution of the Middle East, East Asia and Europe from 500 C.E. to modern times.

Grade 8: U.S. History
This course will give students a survey of American history from earliest contact up to modern times. Students will obtain fundamental facts about our nation's past as well as the ability to analyze information. An emphasis will be placed on developing research, writing, and questioning skills.

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Although most students keep the same language throughout middle school, the students may switch languages at the end of their grade 6 year. Students who have previous formal academic experience with a language at that point may be administered a placement test to ensure the best placement for ongoing language study. Middle school language courses are not intended for native speakers. Students with a native experience or fluency with a language may choose that language in grade 9, where they may be appropriately challenged in advanced classes.

All Harker students are required to study one world language. Students may choose from four modern languages - French, Spanish, Mandarin or Japanese - or one classical language - Latin. We require all sixth graders to take a beginning level (level 1A) of their chosen language in order to fully understand the study of a foreign language at Harker. Students are able to develop all of the basic skills required to successfully study a foreign language, including listening, speaking, reading and writing. For the modern languages, emphasis is placed on a communicative approach, while reading and writing are the focal points of Latin. Spanish students also have the opportunity to participate in a language immersion trip to Costa Rica.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

In middle school, computer courses are designed to enhance a student's ability to solve problems while refining research and technological skills. Students also develop their ability to express an idea using a variety of media and are introduced to computer programming concepts. Our courses are not language specific. They are designed to develop problem-solving and logical reasoning skills. These skills will provide students with the foundations of programming that can be applied to any language.

Grade 6: Computer Science (required):
Students will be introduced to design theory through computer game design. Students will utilize design thinking to create games and solve problems for each other and students from the Tamagawa School in Japan. Students will learn how to publish and communicate their designs through a variety of tools such as blogs, forums, etc.

Grade 7: Computer Science (required):
This course introduces programming to the middle school student. Using free, open source software, students are exposed to programming concepts and structure in order to create their own programs. This will begin with coding, troubleshooting and creating interactive games and animations in Scratch. We will conclude with object-oriented programming by focusing on the Python language. Concepts to be covered include logical reasoning, algorithms, syntax, debugging and systems thinking.

Grade 8 Computer Science (required):
This course introduces students to systems thinking and top-down design to facilitate the concept of domain knowledge. The course introduces the fundamentals of computer architecture and emphasizes development of analytical and logical thinking skills essential for programming. This course is not language specific; it enables the student to analyze any given question and brainstorm logical steps to reach an efficient solution that is ready for applying in any language-specific syntax. Students are introduced to online visual lessons in JavaScript to apply the problem-solving skills they have gained. Students will simultaneously participate in an online international discussion forum with students from our partner school, the World Foreign Language Middle School in Shanghai, China. Discussions will include topics on current day issues affecting youth.

Grade 6: Innovation Lab
Using the create process called design thinking, students will develop solutions to unique problems or challenges. Students will design, problem-solve and learn through curiosity and play. Projects completed by students may involve one or more of the following workstations within the lab: 3-D printing, textile crafts, electronics, programming or multimedia.

Grade 7-8: Engineering and App Design
This beginning course in electronics will cover the basic laws of electron flow and their application to technical devices. At the heart of their projects, students will use Arduino boards and Raspberry Pi boards to program the device. The course will provide an introduction into the basic principles of electricity and electronics theory with an emphasis on industrial applications. Students will be exposed to various schematics, wiring diagrams and symbols as they are used in practical settings, as well as electronic components like resisters, capacitors and transistors to create their own circuitry. Students will produce electronic solutions in the form of projects that they can take home to show off to family members.

Grade 8: JAVA Programming
This is an elective course grade 8 students can take in addition to the require course listed above. This course offers an advanced level of programming to the middle

school student. Using Java and free, open source software, students will implement solutions to problems by developing designs, writing code and debugging programs. This will entail coding and troubleshooting using BlueJ, a free Java editor and compiler. Concepts to be covered include objects, classes, methods, data types and data structures.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The physical education program offers opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of physical activities, learn the fundamentals of team and individual sports, learn personal fitness skills, interact within their social world and develop healthy lifetime habits and interests. Health topics, including mental as well as physical health, maturation and drug education are a part of the physical education curriculum.

Grade 6:
The focus of grade 6 physical education is on learning skills through cooperation. Specific skills include underhand and sidearm throwing and catching, striking with body parts and objects, circus skills, creating new games, fitness testing and dance. The health education curriculum is based on the nine content areas of health: community health, environmental health, personal health, family health, nutrition, disease prevention, injury prevention, substance abuse, and growth and development. The objective of the curriculum is to provide the students with basic health knowledge, life skills and healthful behaviors.

Grade 7:
The grade 7 physical education curriculum comprises units including tumbling and body management, racket sports, track and field, fitness testing, dance, court games and base games. The health education curriculum is based on the health triangle and provides the students with information on mental, physical and social health issues as well as substance abuse skills and prevention. The objective of the curriculum is to provide students with healthy life skills and refusal skills for substance abuse.

Grade 8:
The grade 8 physical education curriculum comprises units including invasion team sports, team net sports, team field sports, fitness testing and dance. The health education curriculum provides education in three main areas: health education, first aid and injury prevention and sex education. The objective of the curriculum is to provide the students with healthy attitudes and values toward relationships, and knowledge and life skills for healthy living.

VISUAL ARTS

It is important that students continue to experience and explore the artistic aspects of life in middle school, to complement their academic experiences. In addition to a year of music in grade 6, students may also select from a variety of electives to complete an additional experience in the fine or performing arts. Students may choose to broaden their knowledge in a current area of interest or explore and develop new passions.

Grade 6: Visual Arts
Visual Arts:
Students experience a variety of art media in both two and three dimensions. The lessons explore the art elements and principles of design. Lessons presented focus on engaging the students' imaginations, enhancing critical thinking skills and developing technical and perceptual abilities. Students are also introduced to artists and art movements from history with follow-up assignments that give them the opportunity to interpret style and theme using their own imagery. Materials explored include all varieties of graphite, paints, pastels, wood, clay, wire, plaster and mixed-media collage. The curriculum is articulated with the California Standards for Visual Arts.

Ceramics:
This semester-long course focuses on theme-based lessons exploring the medium of clay. In addition, students will use the semester to practice and develop their skill using the pottery wheel with an emphasis on creating functional ceramics. Each lesson theme will engage the student's imagination and introduce a central idea which they will express. There is emphasis on the design process of ideation with two-dimensional visualization and composition explored for each project. The designs are fully developed on paper and then transferred into three-dimensional expression in clay. Sequential lessons build student skill levels from basic to more challenging experiences in the handling of clay. There is also strong emphasis on building a foundation and understanding of the elements and principles of art and design.

Grades 7-8: Visual Arts

Grade 7-8 students must participate in at least one fine arts opportunity during their seventh or eighth grade year. Students can fulfill this requirement by taking any performing arts elective, one of the fine arts electives listed below, or participating in other fine arts opportunities. These opportunities include after-school dance, working on the middle school musical scenery after school or on a weekend, crewing the middle school play, participating in the middle school musical or Dance Jamz, and taking part in an independent after-school study in the fine arts.

Art I:

Art I is designed for grade 7-8 students taking art for the first time. Students experience a variety of art media in a progressive sequence exploring the visual art elements. Art from different historical periods, cultures, art movements and artists introduce each lesson to promote art appreciation and comprehension. Lessons are taught within a theme that links the purpose and skills to each project. Students work in a wide variety of media: clay, glass, wood, drawing, paint, found objects, collage, photography and some computer graphic work as well.

This course continues with Art II where these foundation skills are further developed.

Art II: (Prerequisite: Art I)

Art II is a continuation of the work begun in Art I. In Art I the focus is on the individual art elements. In Art II the focus is on how the art elements are organized in composition and design. Art II students learn how to compose, design and develop their own personal expression exploring the principles of design. Materials used include clay, glass, wood, drawing, paint, found objects, collage, photography, and a minimal integration of computer graphics. Students carry their ideas through from ideation to completion, demonstrating an increasingly complex sense of aesthetics in both concept and art-making strategies. Art class is dedicated to the creative spirit and it's a place to relax and explore ideas. Students participate in a shared art project with a sister school in France and in an online art gallery with students from a sister school in Australia.

This course emphasizes development of individual skills and practices to prepare the student for articulation into the upper school's visual arts program.

Sculpture:

This course is devoted to building a foundation in additive and subtractive sculptural techniques through an exploration of the elements and principles of art and design. Lessons presented focus on engaging the students' imagination, enhancing their critical thinking skills and developing technical and kinesthetic skills by handling a variety of materials. Art from different historical periods, cultures, art movements and artists introduce each lesson to promote art appreciation and comprehension. Lessons are taught within a theme that links the purpose and skills together within a project. The semester is divided into three basic sections by media and style.

- Clay: wheel throwing, hand building
- Wood: relief sculpture, free-standing sculpture
- Mixed Media: culminating project of kinetic sculpture, stabiles and standing mobiles

Ceramics:

Students will work extensively in the medium of clay interpreting themes and completing assigned projects. Each theme is designed to challenge the student's imagination, explore ideas and promote conceptualization skills. Students will experience the process of creativity through the workings of the design cycle: ideation, planning and execution. In some instances, students will draw their ideas two-dimensionally and deconstruct them in order to determine how to make them out of clay before they handle the actual material. In many cases they will make smaller models before embarking on a large-scale form. Students will learn in all methods of clay construction with a focus on designing within the nature and character of clay itself. In addition, students will have ample opportunity to use the potter's wheel and develop this unique skill. This course solidifies students' skills and abilities in self-expression through the aesthetics of clay and prepares them for specialization in upper school. Ceramics from different historical periods, cultures, art movements and artists will be studied in order to promote art appreciation and understanding. There is also strong emphasis on building a foundation and understanding of the elements and principles of art and design.

Advanced ceramics and advanced sculpture classes are also available to eighth graders who took ceramics and sculpture in grade 7.

PERFORMING ARTS

It is important that students continue to experience and explore the artistic aspects of life in middle school, to complement their academic experiences. In addition to a year of music and drama in grade 6 and dance embedded in their physical education classes, students may also select from a variety of electives to complete an additional experience in the performing arts. Students may choose to broaden their knowledge in a current area of interest or explore and develop new passions.

GRADE 6 PERFORMING ARTS

Grade 6 Performing Arts (required):
Students will meet for one semester, twice a week, to explore the world of performing arts with a special focus on theater arts and music.

Physical Education Dance:
Three weeks out of the school year all grade 6 students attend a dance class with a Harker dance instructor. The dance class enhances students' coordination and flexibility, allows them to focus on moving their bodies and limbs with agility, strength and fluidity. It teaches students to use momentum and control as they dance and gives them the opportunity to explore moving to the rhythm and tempo of music. This program provides basic dance skills in jazz, modern and ballet. Students build on these skills from grade level to grade level. A creative dance component allows students to explore creating their own movements in small groups and alone.

GRADE 6 PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Dynamics:
Dynamics is designed for the student who loves high-energy choir performing. Students sing, 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. Participation in Dynamics is a year-long commitment. Students use their elective period in semester 1 for Dynamics and then in semester 2, students participate in Dynamics during a practice period that takes place within the school day.

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 playwriting, 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.

Orchestra:
This ensemble explores a range of chamber and orchestral repertoire. Providing a rich musical environment, students have opportunities to work with professional musicians in master classes and at outside music festivals. Students participate in a variety of activities focused on learning a variety of repertoire, sight reading, technique, notating, and composing and analyzing music.

Introduction to Technical Theater:
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.

GRADES 7-8 PERFORMING ARTS

Grade 7-8 students must participate in at least one fine arts opportunity during their seventh or eighth grade year. Students can fulfill this requirement by taking any performing arts elective, one of the fine arts electives listed below, or participating in other fine arts opportunities. These opportunities include after-school dance, working on the middle school musical scenery after school or on a weekend, crewing the middle school play, participating in the middle school musical or Dance Jamz, and taking part in an independent after-school study in the fine arts.

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. Participating in Concert Choir is a year-long commitment. 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 during the school day. Concert Choir is a requirement for both Vivace and Harmonics; students who are in either group are concurrently enrolled in Concert Choir.

Physical Education Dance:
Three weeks out of the school year, all grade 7-8 students attend a dance class with a Harker dance instructor as part of their physical education class. The dance class enhances students' coordination and flexibility, allows them to focus on moving their bodies and limbs with agility, strength and fluidity. It teaches students to use momentum and control as they dance and gives them the opportunity to explore moving to the rhythm and tempo of music.

GRADE 7-8 PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Acting/Scene Study:
This course is ideal for students who want to develop their acting skills, improve their oral communication skills or overcome stage fright. 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.

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.

Harmonics:
Harmonics is a highly skilled by-audition 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 various Harker campuses throughout the year and on their annual tour. Harmonics members are also part of the cast of the annual spring musical.

Orchestra:
This course 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 receive a diverse musical education ranging from techniques in listening, rhythm and music theory and music history and are introduced to advanced repertoire. The orchestra also has various performances throughout the year including the winter and spring concerts. It is required that students have had one year of music lessons. Some auditions for selected instruments may be required. This course is a yearlong commitment.

Jazz Band:
Jazz Band is a yearlong 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) learning repertoire by ear, 2) improvising in a variety of tonalities, meters and styles, 3) reading selected repertoire, 4) composing/arranging, and 5) transcribing and analyzing selected improvisations. Throughout the school year, students will perform in both small (combo) and large (big band) ensemble formats. Auditions for selected instruments may be required. This course is a yearlong commitment.

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

AFTER-SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS

Grade 6 after-school performing arts opportunities
Dance:
Grade 6 dance is offered every day after school. Students are offered a varity of styles including ballet, hip hop, jazz, modern and tap. The dance classes consist of a center floor warm-up, across-the-floor programming and learning combinations and routines. Flexibility and technique are the focus of the dance classes. Students who take Session II dance classes learn a routine for Dance Jamz, the middle school dance show. Students must take Sessions I and II to perform in Dance Jamz, whereas Session III is optional.

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. Auditions are held the first week of school, and rehearsals are every Friday evening with monthly weekend rehearsals.

Grade 6 Play:
Students wishing to participate in the fall play audition in September for a November production. Rehearsals are after school.

Grade 7-8 after-school performing arts opportunities
Dance:
Grade 7-8 dance is offered every day after school. Students are offered a variety of styles including ballet, hip hop, jazz, modern and tap. The dance classes consist of a center floor warm-up, across-the-floor programming and learning combinations and routines. Flexibility and technique are the focus of the dance classes. Students who take Session II dance classes learn a routine for Dance Jamz, the middle school dance show. Students must take Sessions I and II to perform in Dance Jamz, whereas Session III is optional.

Showstoppers & High Voltage:
Showstoppers is a grade 7-8 girls audition dance group and High Voltage is the grade 7-8 boys audition dance group. The focus of this select group of dancers is dance technique, stage presence and teamwork. Students need to maintain good academic and citizenship standings.

Drama:
Students wishing to participate in the fall play audition in September for a November production. Rehearsals are after school. There is also a spring musical which grade 7-8 students may audition for; rehearsals for that production take place after school.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Grade 6: Introduction to Public Speaking and Argumentation
In this elective course, students will be introduced to the basic components of public speaking as well as the fundamentals of debate and argumentation. Students will begin with methods for combating communication apprehension and practice this through limited prep and platform speeches. Students will then focus on critical thinking and logic. They will apply these skills through four forums of debate: Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas and Congressional Debate. Students will work through basic case construction and research skills. Students will have the opportunity to debate against their classmates and students from local schools. This course is a prerequisite for the Debate 1 or Speech 1 class students may choose to take in grade 7 or 8.

Grades 7-8: Introduction to Public Speaking and Argumentation
In this elective course, students will be introduced to the basic components of public speaking as well as the fundamentals of debate and argumentation. Students will begin with methods for combating communication apprehension and practice this through limited prep and platform speeches. Students will then focus on critical thinking and logic. They will apply these skills through four forums of debate: Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas and Congressional Debate. Students will work through basic case construction and research skills. Students will have the opportunity to debate against their classmates and students from local schools. This course is for students who have not yet taken any speech or debate courses.

Debate 1
This class requires successful completion of Introduction to Public Speaking and Argumentation. Students will synthesize and apply the argumentative techniques learned in the introductory course. This course will review the basics and work on advanced argumentation such as counterplans, disadvantages, criticisms, weighing mechanisms and frameworks. Students will work on case construction and block preparation as well as affirmative/negative responsibilities. The students will participate in each style of debate in class and receive feedback on their cases and presentation. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitive events outside of school as part of the middle school Forensics Team.

Debate 2
Completion of Debate 1 is required in order to take Debate 2. Students will participate in competitive rounds in all forums of debate. Students will improve their case writing skills and utilize each of the advanced skills learned in Debate 1. Students will present practice speeches, participate in practice debates and learn to receive and provide peer critiques. Students will also work to improve their research skills through finding evidence in school databases, think tanks, books and news sources to find the best evidence to support their arguments. This class will give students opportunities to perfect their arguments for competition in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitive events outside of school as part of the middle school Forensics Team. This course is for eighth graders currently taking 7-8 debate in grade 7.

Speech 1
This course requires successful completion of Introduction to Public Speaking and Argumentation. Speech 1 will engage students in competitive genres of public speaking. After a brief review of public speaking basics, students will delve into exploring the aspects of extempo-

raneous speaking, interpretative speaking and platform speaking. They will have the opportunity to apply their skills through various in-class speeches and work to improve their speeches through various drills and exercises. Students will have opportunities to present in class and peer review their classmates' speeches. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitive events outside of school as part of the middle school Forensics Team. This course is for seventh graders currently taking grade 6 public speaking.

Speech 2
Completion of Speech 1 is required to take Speech 2. Students will prepare and practice multiple competitive speech events in class. Students will improve their presentation skills and utilize each of the speech writing and presentation skills learned in Speech 1. Students will present practice speeches and learn to receive and provide peer critiques. Students will work to improve their skills through drills and exercises tailored for each style of speech. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitive events outside of school as part of the middle school Forensics Team. This course is for eighth graders currently taking public speaking in grade 7.

STUDY SKILLS

Grade 6: Elective Study Skills:
The Study Skills elective will assist students on the path to academic success. The class will focus on organization and time management, improving listening and reading comprehension, and reducing test anxiety and test taking skills. Students will also learn the art of working in a group, research and presentation skills. This class will assist students in becoming confident learners who are well prepared for any academic challenge.

Grade 6-8: Study Hall:
This course provides an opportunity for students to work independently on their studying and their homework, under the supervision and guidance of a teacher.

Sample Schedule

All Classes including Electives	Clubs & XH	After-School Programs
Period 1 Period 2 Break Advisory Period 3 Period 4 Lunch and Activity Period 5 Period 6 Period 7	Extra Help And Clubs	Dance Athletics Debate Performing Arts BEST Activities Study Hall

EXTRACURRICULAR OFFERINGS (subject to change)

A wide variety of after-school programs and extracurriculars available; your child will discover new interests or develop existing ones.

Clubs

Ace Club

Badminton Club

Blackford Technology Club

Club Japan

Chess Club

Debate club

eCybermission

Future Problem Solvers

Junior Classical League

Math Club

Science Research Club

Service Club

Spirit Club

Tech Theater Club

Drama Club

Comic Book Club

Art Club – Clay Art

Specialty Classes (additional fees apply)

Private music lessons: bass/guitar, clarinet, flute, saxophone, violin/viola

Love Food

Food Corner

Décor Art

Sports

Baseball (boys)

Basketball

Cross Country

Flag Football (boys)

Golf

Soccer

Softball (girls)

Swimming

Tennis

Track & Field

Volleyball

Water Polo

Wrestling

Other Extracurriculars

Drop-in activities (included in tuition)

Activity Ave. (center for drop-in activities such as board and video games, bumper pool, foosball and a movie room)

Food Art

Arts & Crafts

Improv

HARKER

Middle School | 3800 Blackford Ave., San Jose, CA 95117 | 408.248.2510 | admission@harker.org | www.harker.org

O of C: 07/16 - 675 SW