

Harmony Middle School



Annual Report 2022-2023

From the Principal's Desk



Parents and Students,

We are proud of everyone's efforts this year and continue to see growth in our students. I hope you will enjoy our Annual Report as it captures many of the highlights from the year and always leaves us proud of what the students have done and appreciative of the time and commitment made by each teacher. Your support of the kids and staff is important each year and we send a billion thanks to all of you, especially our PTA Board, school volunteers, and field trip chaperons. Thank you all.

We love our partnership with our families and are looking forward to a little relaxation before we start all over again this Fall. On behalf of the staff and faculty at Harmony, please enjoy the summer, travel safely, and enjoy family. A sad goodbye to all families and students leaving us and a see you soon to everyone else.

Enjoy!

PBL Experiences

Science 6 Students Sought Deeper Learning Through PBL

Science 6 enjoyed immersing students in PBL experiences. Each PBL experience began with a "challenging problem or question" and worked with students on "keys to success." The students then moved through the PBL essential elements, in a public product. A rocket launch, creating weather reports, solar system brochures, and natural resources guides were just a few of the PBL experiences 6th graders enjoyed.

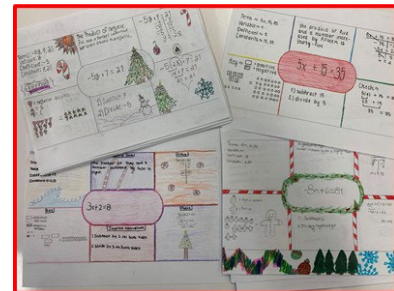


Math 7 Students Applied Mathematics to Everyday Situations

Foundation students applied mathematics to everyday situations this year with activities and project-based assessments that replicated re-world situation. Students experienced a restaurant-owner simulation and a consumer simulation where they worked to calculate quantities and discounts to find the better buy. They also had to stay within budget during a Velocity Wings Challenge, and they connected various representations of rational numbers to personal interest in the world around them. They illustrated models to better understand the process of solving an equation and created a probability carnival to compare theoretical and experimental probabilities.

A worksheet titled "Unit Rates Grocery Market For You" with a "Need Help? Click Here" link. It contains a table for comparing unit prices of hamburger meat and fresh ground beef. The table has columns for "Unit Price" and "Price per Quantity". It includes instructions for calculating unit prices and a section for "Coupon A" and "Coupon B" with calculations for the better buy.

Unit Rates	
Unit Price	Price per Quantity
Directions: You own a hamburger restaurant. You usually buy all of your groceries from "Grocery Market For You". You need to purchase some groceries for your restaurant but want to use the coupons that will give you that best price per unit. You will need to calculate the unit price for each grocery item.	
Grocery Market For You	
How do you want to buy and on the date we have for you? Coupons expire 12/31/2023	
Fresh Ground Beef 12 pack \$12.24 Unit Price: \$1.02	Fresh Ground Beef 16 pack \$15.20 Unit Price: \$0.95
Hamburger Meat 16 oz \$5.44 Unit Price: \$0.34	Hamburger Meat 24 oz \$9.60 Unit Price: \$0.40
Coupon A OR Coupon B	
Coupon A Calculate the unit price below: Unit Price: \$1.24 Unit Price: \$1.24	Coupon B Calculate the unit price below: Unit Price: \$1.24 Unit Price: \$1.24
The coupon with the better buy is Coupon A	



PBL Experiences

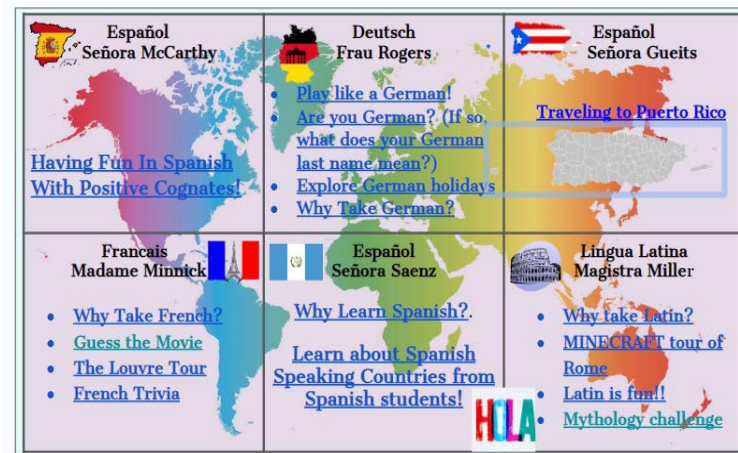
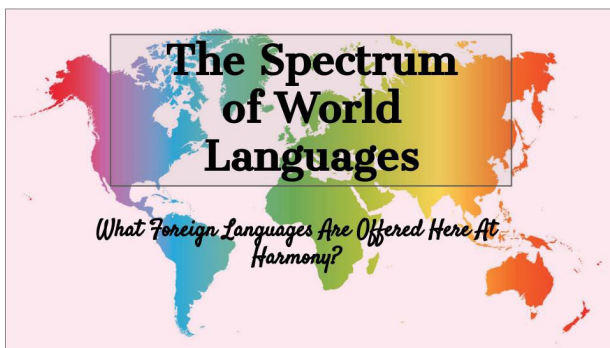
World Language

The World Languages Department sponsored a school-wide HIVE Time to assist students with their upcoming foreign language class selection in February. A student-centered Choice Board was created for them to choose topics and activities to explore.

The focus was based on:

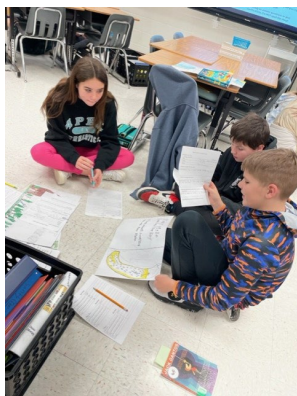
Why learn a foreign language?

What does it mean to be Bilingual?



Grade 6 English

The sixth-grade students created Book Trailer Projects in order to inspire others to read their books. They planned the projects using a storyboard and then created videos in WeVideo or Canva. The videos were presented to the class.



PBL Experiences

Math 7 Students "Wall of Fame"

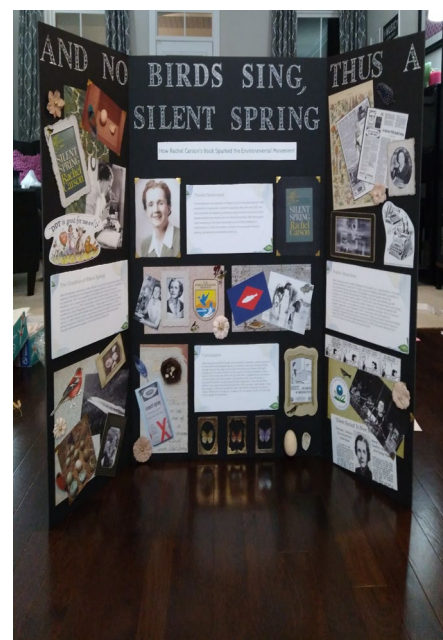
The year was full of math games and challenges, an engaging way to practice and refine our skills. Our champions recorded their names and accomplishments on our classroom "Wall of Fame" to display throughout the year!



Spectrum Students Compete in National History Day Projects.

Students in 6, 7, & 8 competed in this year's theme of Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions, students presented their work in the form of a paper, exhibit, performance, website, or documentary. Students were offered the opportunity to enter their project in the regional level academic competition and move on to higher levels.

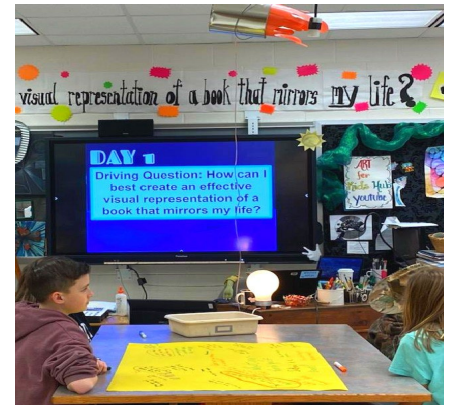
Arabella Horton entered her project, Thus a Spring was Silent, which placed 3rd at the regional level and 2nd at the state level. Arabella will move on to represent Harmony at the National Level in June 2023.



PBL Experiences

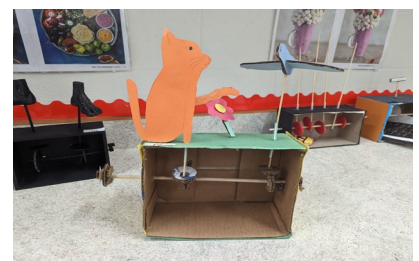
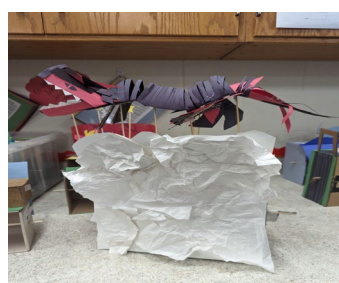
Library Collaboration

Our Librarian, Susan McGilvray, collaborated with our 6th grade Art teacher, Brenda Dowdy, on a project named "Mirror Book." Each student found a book of choice that represented their lived experiences. They used the book for inspiration and then created a painted panel using a screen leftover from Covid.



Spectrum Students Work through Engineering Design Process

Students in grades 6 and 7 worked through the engineering design process to research, design, build, test, and iterate to build automata based on the 17th century art form as demonstrated and inspired by Maillardet's Automation currently on display in the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Students conceptualized an idea, created isometric drawings, built prototypes, and made modifications as necessary for the device to function. The pieces of art were displayed in an "art museum" and received feedback from peer reviewers.



PBL Experiences

7th grade History - Real World Economics

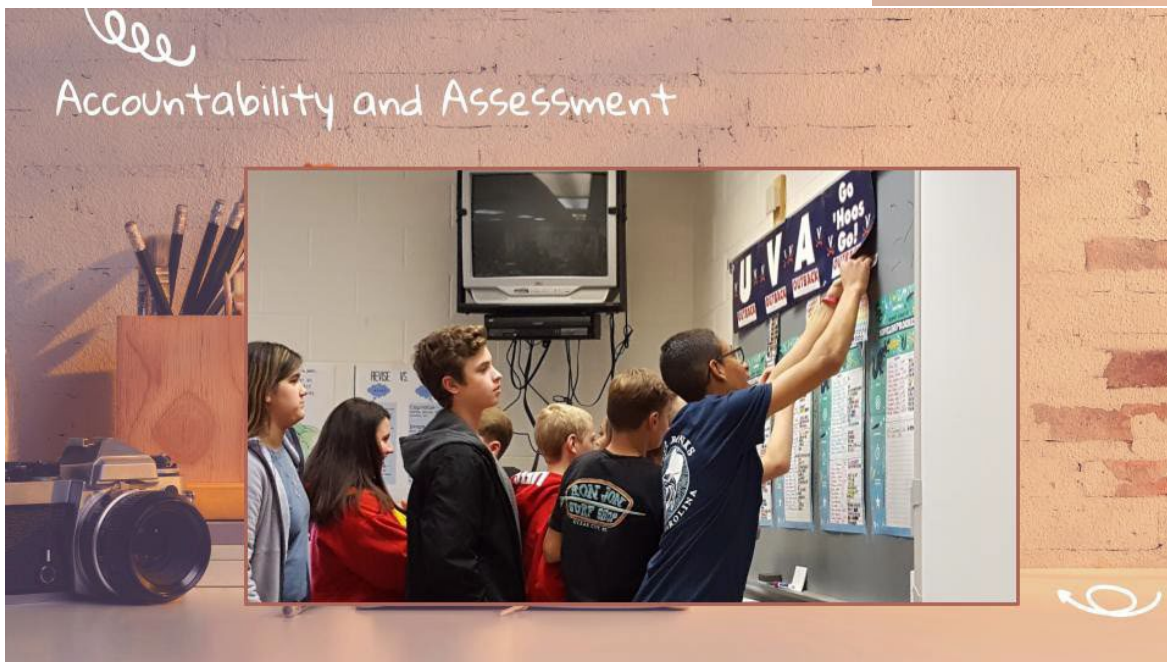
Students investigated real world economics in two project-based learning activities this year. During our Big Business unit, students investigated a nation with which the United States trades. They created Google Slide decks that displayed a nation's GDP, imports and exports, and employment rate among other facts. These slide decks were published as a public product as posters and displayed outside of B-17 in the hallway. During the Great Depression unit, students took on the role of economic advisors to President Biden. They went back into the historical record to find out how Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal developed programs that provided relief during the Great Depression, and then they applied that information into advice for President Biden, who faced similar challenges because of the COVID pandemic. Students presented their findings to the class in the form of a congressional Hearing, where their colleagues asked them difficult questions about their conclusions. Presenting students had to "think on their feet" in their responses. This project gave students the opportunity to link the past with the present while learning about topics relevant in US Civics and Economics, the subject area they will encounter in 8th grade social studies.



PBL Experiences

8th Grade National Novel Writing Month

NaNoWriMo stands for National Novel Writing Month- a worldwide challenge to write a novel in the month of November. The students learned new skills in our class lessons, including how to write and punctuate effective dialogue, use sensory details to create an immersive setting, and craft realistic, round characters. These lessons culminated in the NaNoExpo, where they were able to learn from some of Harmony's writing experts and share their writing with one another. Collectively, Harmony students wrote over 2 million words in November!



PBL Experiences

English 7 held a Poetry Slam

The Poetry PBL was kicked off with an introduction to the life of Edgar A. Poe with a focus on the poem, Annabel Lee. Students were shown that poetry can have a surface meaning, (literal), but oftentimes have deeper meaning sometimes based on an author's experiences. 7th graders created their own Haiku, Limerick, Rhyme Scheme, Ode, and Free Verse Poem. A class poetry slam was conducted where students voted on the best-represented poem for their block. Finally, the top students in Mr. Binford's, Ms. Butler's, and Ms. Hillebrand's class presented their poems in front of their peers. English and eighth-grade judges scored the poems, and chose the final block poetry slam winner.

Winners:

Block 1 : Megan H., Ella H., Rocco M

Block 3: Katherine H. (tied for 1st), Bree M. (tied for 1st), Ethan D. , Ashley H

Block 4: Louise R., Penny S., Ethan V

Block 6: Eli R, Javeria J, Will K

Block 7: Emily H, Molly D, Arabella H,

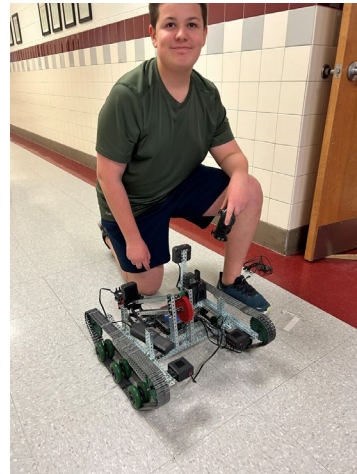
Block 8: Michael R., Alyvia S, Arsh S



PBL Experiences

Robotic Projects

Robotic Projects were in action this past year in our 8th grade Robotics classes. Samples included a Happy Machine, a Shoe Rater, a Line Follower, and a very cool "Object Grabber" project by Nielsen Johnson



Pizza Wars in FACS

Seventh grade FACS classes completed Pizza Wars, a wonderful lesson and student designed presentation of working on a team, planning the meal, getting celebrity (teacher) endorsements, and then cooking the pizza.

PBL Experiences

Pathways in Engineering

Seventy-five female students at Harmony learned more about careers in information technology and engineering from women who have succeeded in those fields by discussing their careers. Sponsored by Microsoft, the students enjoyed engaging in ways of learning and exploring STEM and Engineering fields. The hands-on labs, HoloLens Technology, and traditional labs engaged our students for a fun and informative time.



After School Experiences

Family Arts Night

Family Arts Night was celebrated in March as part of Youth Art Month. The event included art activities: Spin Art Painting, Shrink Art, Collage Pens, Sumi-e-Paintings, Model Magic Sculptures, Window Art Decal, Master Artist Photo Booth, Art Show, Pre-Algebra-Stained Glass Art, Matilda preview, Guitar Performances, Guest Artist Demos.



After School Experiences

STEM Expo

Students in 8th Grade Tech Ed, Technology of Robotic Design, and Computer Science were able to design and create projects of their own interest using knowledge and skills from previously learned content. They were able to utilize elements of PBL by creating authentic projects of their own choice that they could publicly display to their families and faculty members at the STEM Expo.

STEM Expo Winners: Thank you to all those who presented a project at the STEM Expo May 25th.

The winners are...

3rd Place: "Bright Wright"

Hailey Lineau, Ashley Grande, Sarah Burwell, Stasa Merkel

2nd Place: "Cheeseburger Cat"

Alex Leigh, Olli Bobber, Andrew Cantone

1st Place: "K9M2 Robot"

Keriann Leisey and Madeline Browning

Honorable Mentions: Best Computer Science Game:
Cayden Baker

Best Tech Ed Project: "Hockey Goal"
Nick Frascarelli



After School Experiences

Empty Bowl Dinner

The Empty Cup PBL Project is a community service art project to raise awareness about the issue of hunger and food security in Western Loudoun County. This year, we had 5 local potters, who made over 150 cups: Carrie Althouse, Geoff DeMark, Shawn Grove, Yousung Choi Largent, and Amy Oliver. 8th grade art students made an additional 120 cups using slab techniques. 6th and 7th grade classes glazed the artists cups and 8th grade art students glazed the handmade cups. There were more than 250 cups available at our event. This year we raised \$3,500 for the Western Loudoun Food Pantry, bringing our total donation to \$31,000 since the start of this project.



Accolades and Awards

Latin Students

On Sunday, November 20th, our Latin students attended and competed at the VJCL State Latin convention.

Winners:

- Silas Banta
- Wyatt Curtis
- Alex DellaTorre
- Owen Heironimus
- Arabella Horton
- Daniel Rechel
- Sabrina Smeigh
- Rae Sommers
- Victoria Summers
- Molly Tantlinger



Accolades and Awards

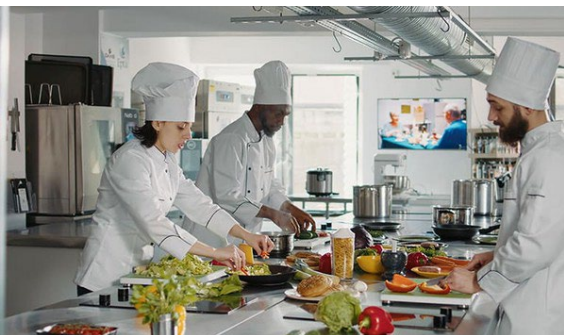


Linda Staneart nominated for Washington Post Teacher of the Year!

Harmony was pleased to nominate Linda Staneart for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Staneart encourages students and never gives up on any individual. She encourages her students to achieve more than they thought they could. Ms. Staneart is an exemplary example in her classroom and to her colleagues. She has been a teacher in Loudoun County Public Schools since 2004. It was a privilege to recognize such an outstanding teacher as a nominee for teacher of the year.

Twenty-One Years in a Row

Congratulations to the Cafeteria Staff of Harmony MS. They passed their 21st consecutive Food Establishment Inspection Report given by the Virginia Department of Health. Categories include meeting standards for food borne illness risk factors, good retail practices, and meeting required temperature observations.



Accolades and Awards

CML Continental Mathematics League Math Competition

An ongoing goal for Spectrum students is to compete in academic competitions. To that end, Harmony 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Spectrum students competed in the Continental Mathematics League.

6th Grade:

1st Place: Elliot Gilchrist

1st Place: Alannah Treadwell

3rd Place: Hayden Pultro

7th Grade:

1st Place: Namay Khandelwal

2nd Place: Emily Lau

3rd Place: Johnny Honcharik

3rd Place: Arabella Horton

8th Grade:

1st Place: Alexander Dellatorre

1st Place: Xavier Peterson

1st Place: Jason Zhang



Accolades and Awards

8th grade Art



Sixty-eight students worked on this art piece in various stages. The theme was to showcase LCPS and hang in the Superintendent's office suite for three years.

Basketball Champs

Girls Travel League Basketball Team were undefeated during their regular season and undefeated through the playoffs. A banner is now in the gym.



Accolades and Awards

Strings

Harmony Strings received all Superior ratings at the State Assessment.



Band

District Band: Logan McConnell, Noah Chinemilly, Tommy Miles

District Jazz Band: Logan McConnell, Noah Chinemilly, Kai Shah

Jazz Ensemble: Superior Rating at Jazz Assessment

8th Grade Band: Excellent Rating at Concert Assessment, Superior Rating and First Place at Music in the Parks



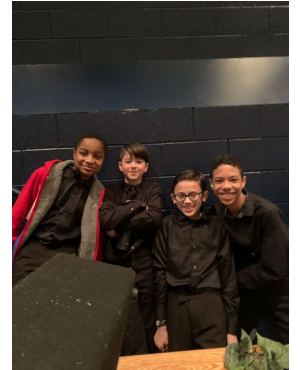
Accolades and Awards

Harmony Chorus

Seven 6th grade students represented Harmony at All-County Chorus.



Twenty-eight 7th and 8th grade Chorus members were selected to District Chorus



Thirteen 6th to 8th grade chorus members were selected to the All-VA Chorus.

Thirteen 6th to 8th grade chorus members were selected to the All-VA Chorus.

8th grade Chorus received all Superior Ratings at the District Choral Academy.



Accolades and Awards

Harmony Students making a difference in our community

Harmony Students have been busy this year helping our community. Our SCA raised \$200.00 for Backpack Buddies.

Our eighth-grade students collected nearly \$600.00 for efforts to help the county of Turkey.

Communications class made handmade lap blankets for the Heritage Hall Nursing Home.

Helping Hands for Children's Hospital December Project - Students created a Helping Hands for Children's Hospital in Fairfax. They advertised, decorated boxes, created posters and made videos for our Live from the Hive for a school wide collection. We collected a total of 90 toys!

The Harmony staff held a soup lunch to help donate to the American Cancer Society. Together, they raised \$719 towards a cure for cancer.



Music in the Park Festival

Congratulations to the Harmony Music Department on their outstanding showing at the Music in the Parks Festival on Friday in Hershey, PA. Every ensemble, Chorus, Guitar, Band and Orchestra, won 1st place in their categories, and Chorus and Orchestra also won Best Overall Chorus and Orchestra respectively. Way to go Harmony Music Department!



Accolades and Awards



Spelling Bee Champ:

Sixth grader, Sarah Pessima, a sixth grader beat all classroom champions in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to win the School Bee. Runner Up was Lilia Costello.

Odyssey of the Mind

Harmony's team came in 10th out of 57th at the World Competition.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving team activity in which groups of students work together over the course of the school year to solve open-ended challenges. The solutions are then presented in skit format in competitions at the regional, state, and worldwide level. This year, Harmony Middle School's team solved the classics problem "The Walls of Troy," winning at the regional and state level to advance to competition at the World Finals held at Michigan State University.

Mental Health Awareness

In October, the UMHT developed lessons on respect that were delivered by staff to students during their HIVE Time. During that week student and staff participated in Unity Day by wearing orange to "unite" together for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.



Mix It Up Day

UMHT organized a school-wide mix it up day during all lunch shifts. Students were encouraged to connect with someone new.



Penny Wars

This year marked the inaugural Penny Wars put on by the United Mental Health Team at Harmony Middle School. Penny Wars created some healthy competition among the grades to raise money for a good cause. The cause this year was Nicks Way.

We raised a total of **\$1,252.82**. The results were as follows:

1st place: 6th grade
16,410 points
2nd place: 8th grade
10,710 points
3rd place: 7th grade
8,553



Harmony Musical

Each year, Harmony presents a musical. A casting panel selects students who demonstrate vocal and dramatic preparation, discipline, as well as the ability and maturity to commit to a rigorous rehearsal schedule and work well with others. Our director, Meghann Donohue, along with music director, Lisa Washington, production manager, Jodi Hillebrand, and lights/sound by William McGilvary, brought to life *Matilda Jr.* performed and supported by over 45 Harmony 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Many outstanding parents stepped into volunteer to sew/alter costumes, create an extravagant set to include Miss Honey's Classroom, the Wormwood's home, and the Trunchbull's room of discipline along with many amazing props. We can't thank them enough for their time and dedication to the students and the show. Students were a little 'naughty' as they fought for what was right, and eventually taught the horrendous Agatha Trunchbull an important life lesson. We thank everyone for their support this year and look forward to seeing old and new faces for next year's production!



Harmony Clubs

We were very proud to be able to offer Harmony students a choice of over 40 clubs.

- Anatomy
- Battle of the Books
- Board Game Club
- Breakfast Club
- Card Club
- Chamber Carolers
- Chess Club
- Corn hole Club
- Cosmic Academy Animation Club
- Crafting Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Eco Warriors
- Equity Club
- FCA
- Fishing
- Fine Dining
- Football Fanatics
- Gardening and Wellness
- Genius Hour



Harmony Clubs

- Jazz Band
- Juggling
- Latin
- LIAM
- Harry Potter
- Mad Science
- Math Team
- Meme
- Movie Making
- National Novel Writing
- Ping Pong
- Pride
- Project Lit
- Public Speaking
- SCA
- Sewing
- Social Squad
- Stem
- Student Council
- Tech-Deck
- Volleyball
- WEB



Business Partnerships

A special thank you to some of Harmony's business partners

Harmony would like to take a moment to thank our business partners who have generously contributed to many of the programs that help support our students. These organizations have helped with our weekly backpack buddy program, eye exams and glasses for students, school supplies, winter jackets for students, and much more. Some of these partners are listed below:

- Althouse Pottery
- Backpack Buddies Foundation of Loudoun
- Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- Geoff DeMark
- Harmony PTA
- Mr. Print
- Round Hill United Methodist Church Food Pantry
- Tari Orthodontics
- Tree of Life Purcellville
- Western Loudoun Food Pantry
- Wood Fire Pottery

