



Lick-Wilmerding High School

Head, Heart, and Hands



# PERFORMING ARTS

*at Lick-Wilmerding High School*



### Statement on Equity

Lick-Wilmerding High School strives to cultivate a diverse, collaborative community of students and adults that is rooted in empathy, equity, respect, humility, and accountability. We commit to uphold the tenets of anti-racism and to interrupt all forms of interpersonal and institutional bias and discrimination. We aspire to create safe, joyful spaces for learning where everyone brings their whole selves, feels known and heard, lifts each other up, and engages in all aspects of life at LWHS and beyond.

### Performing Arts Statement

The Performing Arts Department at LWHS believes that the academic practice of creating and performing music, drama, dance and stagecraft provides students with opportunities to be their authentic selves. We believe performance and production from start to stage fosters personal and societal transformation. The Performing Arts faculty are committed to creating a supportive space and framework for students to develop their artistic voice. We believe when students are empowered to be creative, they will contribute to society in unique and innovative ways.

The Performing Arts Department educates students in the **craft, theory** and study of **production** and **performance**. Through a **culturally equitable curriculum**, we foster students' **individuality, creativity, empathy** and **discipline**. Our performances provide students with an artistic platform in which they learn **problem solving, collaboration**, and **commitment**. The Performing Arts department is in partnership with the surrounding communities in the Bay Area through student initiatives, public purpose work, and performances.







# DANCE

## Dance Program Vision

The dance program of the Performing Arts department envisions experiences where students can imagine the possibilities of movement in class, in performance, and in society. We provide students with an artistic platform in which they have the support to create, engage, explore, and communicate. It is committed to the representation of all perspectives and presenting work with a cultural, social, and historical foundation to empower students to develop their personal aesthetic, as well as their role beyond the classroom.

## Program Description

The dance program is open to all students interested in dance. With a foundation in technique, proper alignment, and artistic quality, students will experience a diverse range of dance genres, styles, and approaches to choreography. Students will be introduced to improvisation and choreographic concepts, and will develop their own creative process to construct their own original dances. Students will learn repertory and develop pieces for the biannual dance concerts. The dance program offers the opportunity for growth through artistic educational experiences and fosters each individual as a part of a strong dance community.

## COURSES OFFERED

- Dance 1
- Dance 2
- Dance Ensemble PPP

*All students begin at Dance 1.*



**TABATHA  
ROBINSON**

Department Chair,  
Dance Teacher

# MUSIC

The LWHS music program offers a multifaceted approach to learning about and creating music. Our core instrumental and vocal music courses are dedicated to embracing a broad spectrum of genres and repertoire through the music we study and the performances we bring to the school and the greater community. Additionally, we offer non-performance music courses.

*Songwriting* explores the craft and creative process of writing songs. *Creative Projects In Music Production* provides an avenue for students interested in music technology. In *Music and Social Justice*, we explore how music has been used to bring about social change throughout history and across the globe. Our cross-departmental offering with the science

department, *Music and the Brain*, examines how music is at the core of what makes us human: the appreciation of music, making music and sharing music.



**JASON  
GILLENWATER**

Instrumental Music Teacher



**TONY ASARO**

Vocal Music Teacher  
and Additional Music  
Disciplines

## COURSES OFFERED

- Advanced Creative Projects in Music Production
- Advanced Jazz & Contemporary Music Ensemble PPP
- Chamber Orchestra PPP
- Creative Projects in Music Production
- Jazz & Contemporary Music Ensemble
- Music and Social Justice PPP
- Music and the Brain
- Songwriting I
- Songwriting II
- Vocal Ensemble PPP







# THEATRE

The Theatre Program is accessible to students from all walks of life and welcomes any student interested in participating in our course offerings and After-School Theatre Program. Students set goals for themselves as artists and as people, learning the power of imagination, communication, reflection, community, and cultural representation.

**No experience is necessary to audition for any of the LWHS theatre productions.**

We produce three theatre productions annually, a fall play, spring musical, and a One-Acts Festival. The One-Acts Festival is our student-led production featuring original works written, directed, and acted by LWHS students. Additionally, the Theatre Program arranges field trips to local productions and

supplements courses with visiting guest artists. We value theatre as entertainment and as a teaching tool, raising awareness about relevant social, historical, political, and cultural issues. We work in partnership with organizations such as the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Youth Art Exchange, as well as with local public schools. The Theatre Program is committed to interdisciplinary collaborations with other departments on campus.

## Theatre Productions

The After-School Theatre Program offers an array of extracurricular opportunities, including acting in a production, backstage assistance, and several areas in theatrical design: Costumes, Lighting, Sound, Set and Prop Construction, Stage Management, and Dramaturgy.

## COURSES OFFERED

- Acting
- Advanced Stagecraft
- Directing
- Improv PPP
- Sketch Comedy & Improv
- Stagecraft



**KATE BOYD**

Stagecraft Teacher & Technical Director



**MIGUEL ZAVALA**

Theater Teacher and Director of After-School Theatre Program



# ALUMNI WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Kate  
Weare  
'90**

“

Lick offered me a true grounding in the humanities and an emphasis on hands-on creativity and problem solving. After Lick I went to CalArts, but I still feel like some of the training I received in my high school was crucial for the kind of research-driven, investigative artist I have become. Under Midge Kretchmer, we made our own choreography, we put on our own shows, we critiqued each other's work as well as delving into the rich history of American modern dance, and we took real pride in our capacity for self-expression through movement.”

*Kate is a professional choreographer running her own contemporary dance company based in New York City: Kate Weare Company. [kateweare.com](http://kateweare.com)*



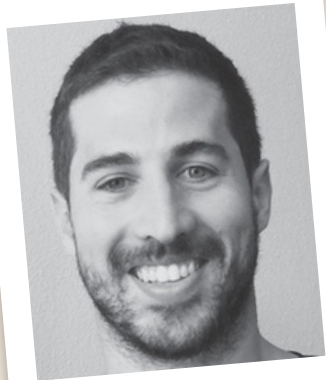
**Jamie  
Yuen-Shore  
'09**

“

Lick had a large influence in my trajectory in the performing arts, especially the dance program. For three years, I was granted the opportunity to choreograph large and small ensemble pieces and collaborate with my peers to create whatever we wanted, costume and light our pieces, then perform in a beautiful theater. That kind of creative control, freedom, and access were so important in my development as a choreographer, director, and collaborator. Also, in my life nothing creates a stronger bond than making art you love with friends.”

*Jamie now teaches acting and directs plays and musicals at Jewish Community High School in San Francisco. She also choreographs for the San Francisco Arts Education Project Players and directs and choreographs for the San Francisco Bay Area Theater Company, including an original piece called “I, Too, Sing America” (Theater Bay Area Award Winner 2019 - Outstanding Direction, Outstanding Production of a Musical).*





**David  
Fleming  
'10**

“

I really started to find my passion for singing during chorus my first year and that was elevated during the musical my sophomore year.

I had never been taught to feel the music I'm singing, but that helped me to move from a head and hands lens of looking at music to a heart lens. Lick helped create a balance and appreciation of incorporating music and art into my daily experiences. Even though I work in a different field (education), I know that music is a huge part of my life and something that helps fill my soul.”

*David is now an assistant principal at a public elementary school in Seattle. He continues to record, produce, and perform music under the name David Kelly.*



**Felix  
Fein  
'22**

“

Lick gave me the opportunity to explore the performing arts in numerous ways, from playing trumpet in the pit orchestra for Beauty and the Beast to playing the electric violin in Big Band to playing classical violin in Chamber Orchestra. Performing arts at Lick taught me that playing music can take many forms and that there is always something new to discover. Lick gave me the confidence to put myself out there, celebrate my musical identity, and enjoy making music as a way of connecting with one another.”

*Felix attends Yale and is a part of the Yale Symphony Orchestra.*





## Lick-Wilmerding's Mission Statement

A private school with public purpose, Lick-Wilmerding High School develops the head, heart, and hands of highly motivated students from all walks of life, inspiring them to become life-long learners who contribute to the world with confidence and compassion.



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