



School Handbook, 2011-12

www.harischool.org

As of September 09th, 2012

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About HARI

HARI Vidya Bhavan is a language and culture school located at the Third World Center on the Brown University Campus in Providence, R.I. HARI School is run by a team of dedicated volunteers from the Indian/Indian American community.

HARI School is a non-profit organization incorporated in Rhode Island. It been granted tax-exempt status by the IRS. All donations to HARI school are tax deductible (Tax Identification Number is 26-2161086). To make a donation contact Dr. Ram Gupta.

HARI School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

Mission Statement

To provide Hindi language instruction and foster a secular understanding of India's diverse cultural heritage in the New England Indian/ Indian American community.

Objectives

- To offer quality language instruction
- To appreciate and understand India's rich and diverse cultural traditions, practices, and history within a secular context.
- To promote personal growth and development by participation in cultural events and performances.
- To encourage volunteering and community engagement.

Core Curriculum

Language

Multi-level language classes provide instruction in speaking, reading and writing Hindi. Advanced levels include comprehension and interpretation of a variety of literary texts.

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth Affiliation

Students in the senior language class may obtain credits from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth by enrolling and completing the "Introduction to Hindi" Course. Please contact Dr. Ram Gupta for additional information.

Culture

Cultural classes focus on the diverse cultural traditions, practices and history of Indian within a secular context. From storytelling to engaging in discussions about contemporary India, children are exposed to a

complex and multi-layered cultural heritage. HARI cultural classes do not promote any one particular religious tradition. Rather, our goal is to provide a secular understanding that recognizes and respects the rich diversity that composes Indian culture.

Cultural teachers Indian American Students from the RI community, many are HARI Alumni. Given the shared cultural background, HARI students can connect meaningfully with these young, energetic teachers. The cultural classes promote a learning approach that is instructive, interactive, and enjoyable.

General Information

Director: Dr. Ram Gupta, 401-247-1521

School Coordinator: Vinod Israni, 401-949-5131

Mailing Address:

HARI School
P.O. Box 1065
Bristol, RI 02806

Classes held at:

Third World Center
68 Brown St.
Providence, RI 02912

Email: harividyaabhavan@gmail.com

Website: www.harischool.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/harischool>

School Calendar

Fall Semester – September through December.

Spring Semester – January through June.

Please check the website frequently for change in school opening, class locations, events and updates.

School Timing

Classes are held most Sundays from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm.

10.15 am-10.30 am	Quiz
10.30 am- 11.20am	Hindi Language
11.20 am-11.35 am	Snack
11.35 am-12.15 pm	Culture

End of School – Optional After School Activity begins

School Timings Cont'd

12.15-12.30.1 Lunch break

12.30- 1.30 After-school activity

Enrollment & Registration

Students can be registered any time during the year by contacting Dr. Ram Gupta at 401-247-1521 or by emailing us at harividyaabhavan@gmail.com. Registration forms are available on our website.

On the first day of school, new students will get an orientation package that will include textbooks, school handbook, and other instructions. Language teachers will be available to discuss your child's skill level and class placement.

School Fees

\$125 per semester. 25% discount for 2nd or more siblings.

Fee includes books and material, use of HARI library and family entrance to school functions. **Financial assistance is available to any student upon request.**

Student Attendance

We encourage regular attendance to get the most benefit of the language and culture instruction. If your student is to be absent from the class due to illness or vacation, please inform Dr. Ram Gupta at 401-247-1521.

Student Behavior

- We expect mutual respect in our school community of students, instructors and volunteers.
- Use of electronic devices such as PDA, cell phone, and I-pod is not allowed during class hours.
- Please review our rules of school conduct.

School Communication

Most school communications will be sent out via email and posted on the school website or on our Facebook Page. This will include:

- Upcoming school events
- School cancellations due to inclement weather or other reasons as soon as the decision is made.
- Changes to school policy and procedure
- Upcoming Community Event

Snacks

A sign-up sheet will be made available to Parents at the beginning of school year for bringing snacks. We suggest these snack guidelines:

- Snacks should be healthy – Granola Bars, animal crackers, cheese and Crackers, fruits
- Snacks should be individually packed for portion control and easy distribution
- No soda or sugary drinks
- One snack and drink per child

Please inform the School Administration if you child has allergies to any food or any medical condition. We suggest you provide your child with a snack to avoid any issues.

Student Sign-in and Sign-Out Procedure

All parents or designated adults are required to sign-in and sign-out their child at the beginning and end of each school day to ensure student safety. A sign-in sheet will be placed at the front entrance table for this. Older HARI students can sign-in/ sign-out themselves with their parent's permission.

Due to our increased student enrollment, we are unable to accommodate parents at the Third World Center premises during school hours. Parents can wait in the building across the TWC while class is in session.

Academics

Class Levels

Class levels for Language are assigned on skill and proficiency and Culture classes are based on age.

Weekly Quiz

A Weekly quiz is administered by the language teacher as a Hindi vocabulary-building exercise. The Quiz is posted weekly on the website Wednesday before class. All students that successfully complete the weekly quiz will receive a surprise incentive at the school graduation.

Final Exams

Final Exams are administered at the end of each semester via a written and oral test. Each language teacher will post test requirement before exams.

Graduation Requirement

Students will be moved to the next level of language and culture class passed on proficiency and age levels.

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Conferences

A Parent-Teacher Conference is held at the end of semester after the final exam to discuss report cards and student progress. A parent can request a meeting with the teacher at any time during the year to discuss student progress.

Parent Involvement & Participation

We encourage Parents to take an active role in their children's language and cultural learning by reviewing assigned homework and projects, helping with vocabulary exercises, and practicing speaking the language at their home.

School Resources

Library

HARI School maintains a library of books and multi-media material related to India and other cultural topics. Students can check out two books, at a time, for up to 2 weeks.

School Phone Book

School directory will be email out to Parents as soon as we have it compiled.

School Activities

HARI School sponsors a variety of school events throughout the year. A calendar of events and announcements will be posted on the School website.

Guest Speakers

HARI School is privileged to have guest speakers from the Rhode Island community to discuss current and relevant topics including culture, religion, art, and architecture.

Field Trip

Each semester HARI students may take one or more field trip to enhance their art and cultural understanding. Parents will receive notice before all school trips.

Annual Diwali & Holi functions

Diwali and Holi festivals are celebrated each year in Fall and Spring. Students and parent will put on a variety show showcasing their language skills and cultural understanding via skits, dance, and music. All practices for events are held during the school session.

Graduation Ceremony and Family Picnic

Graduation ceremony is held at the end of academic year in June at the Annual Family Picnic. School certificates will be distributed followed by a pot-luck lunch.

After-School Cultural Activity

In addition to the regularly scheduled HARI culture class, we now offer optional extended day cultural activities. Bharat Natyam is taught by Veena Tali.

The extended day cultural activities will be held from 12:30-1:30 at the same premises as the regular HARI school. **There is a fee per lesson which is to be paid directly to the teachers.** For more information, please contact the culture class coordinators, Anupama Gupta at anupamathakkar@hotmail.com (401.247.1521) or Anjali Ram at anjali.ram66@gmail.com (401-289-0253).

Volunteering at HARI

HARI School is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. Assistance is needed for a variety of school activities:

- School events
- Language and culture instruction.
- School administration
- Website maintenance

Please contact Dr. Ram Gupta or Jyoti Ganesh if you wish to volunteer. High School Students and HARI Alumni can volunteer to teach or assist a Culture Class. For more information, please contact Anjali Ram at anjali.ram66@gmail.com.

HARI Advisory Committee

Name	Role	Home Phone
Ram Gupta	School Committee Coordinator	401.247.1521
Vinod Israni	School Coordinator & Task Force	401.949.5131
Jyoti Ganesh	Communication/Community Outreach	401.884.5585
Rakhee Tandon	Events Coordinator	401.739.7683
Ashwani Budhiraja	Treasurer	508.252.3603
Anjali Ram	Culture Coordinator	401.289.0253
Anupama Gupta	Culture Coordinator	401.247.1521
Aradhana Mehta	Culture Coordinator	401.253.3773
Hans Maheshwari	Language Coordinator	508.336.6520
Brijesh Rai	Language Coordinator & Task Force	401.884.3043
Sumit Madan	Task Force	508.761.3341
Vikas Shukla	Task Force	508.733.5397
Vikrant Tandon	Task Force	401.739.7683
Arun Deshpande	Task Force	508 809 9127

Advisory Board meets at least once per quarter

Classes and Course Catalog

Language Syllabus

LEVEL	NAME	TEXT BOOKS	Course Catalog
Beginner	GOMTI - I / GOMTI - II	PRAVESHKA	Read, Write, Pronounce Vowels & Consonants Learn Vowels & Consonants, Use Flash Cards Read Two Letters Words Memorize / Recite Three Simple Poems Simple 50 Words, Flash Cards Memorize 5 Simple Sentences (Not more than 5 words) Learn Numbers 1 - 20

			Teach Colors, Greetings, Body Parts
LEVEL	NAME	TEXT BOOKS	Course Catalog
Level 1 Level 2	KAVERI	1 / RED	Repeat All Vowels and Consonants and their Sounds. Learn Numbers 1 - 50 Memorize Three Simple Poems Read, Write, Speak Simple Two Words Phases / Sentences Speak Simple Sentences (3 to 4 Words) Teach Flowers, Fruits, Days of the Week
Level 3 Level 4	NARMADA - I / NARMADA - II	1 A / GREEN	Listen to Simple Stories Learn Numbers 1 - 100 Read, Write, Speak Simple Sentences (4 to 5 Words), Show and Tell Common Objects Conversation (Teacher Select the Topic), Recite Three Simple Poems, Matra's and Barakhadi
Level 5 Level 6	KRISHNA	1 B / ORANGE	Introduction to Compound Words Half Consonants Read, Understand paragraphs and Stories from Book Learn Grammar, Noun, Numbers, Gender and Pronoun Memorize and Recite Three Poems, Learn Months, Time and Seasons, Conversations and Role Playing
Level 7 Level 8	GANGA	2 / PINK	Hindi grammar- pronoun, gender, number, verb, adjectives, adverb, case, modal verb; to form sentences with compound words; to read passages from textbook with compound words; English to Hindi and Hindi to English translation; communication on day to day topics; vocabulary.

Culture Syllabus

The HARI cultural classes focus on the diverse history, cultural traditions, and practices of India within a secular context. HARI cultural classes do not promote any one particular religious tradition. Rather, our goal is to provide a secular understanding that recognizes and respects the rich diversity that composes Indian culture.

We take a theme-based approach and each level has a particular focus. We have four broad levels for our culture class, which are based on the ages and grade-levels of the students. These levels are Himalaya, Nilgiri, Satpura, and Vindhya ranging from 5 years and up respectively.

Our **Himalaya class** focuses on Indian geography and the students are introduced to facts and figures related to India, the wildlife, the vegetation, the climatic zones, the political map, and the cultural geography of each of the four regions. At this level, there are a lot of hands-on activities such as coloring, drawing, story-telling, games and so on.

Our **Nilgiri class** focuses on the visual and performing arts of India. Students are introduced to the classical dance, music, and theatrical traditions of India. Additionally, they learn about the various visual art forms of India like miniature painting, temple sculptures, etc. Additionally, they explore our rich folk traditions. We also continue to use a hands-on approach where the children will listen to music, experiment with some art techniques, learn some dance movements, and make masks.

Our **Satpura class** focuses on the history of India. Students start with the Indus Valley Civilization and work their way through the struggles for an independent Indian state. This is a vast and complex topic and we believe that students need at least two years to get a basic grasp of the Indian history timeline and its significant events. The first year is taught at an introductory level and the second year goes into more detail about the significant periods of Indian history.

Our **Vindhya class** focuses on poetry, philosophy and politics. This class is intended for children who have a strong grasp of all the other three levels and are in middle school. The approach of this class is highly interactive and we encourage the students to create their own projects, engage in debates with each other and so on. At this level, students learn about the politics of India in terms of its governance structure, the biographies and writings of its leaders, and significant political events. Students are also introduced to Indian poetry and prose. Finally, students are introduced to Indian philosophy ranging from the vedas to contemporary thought such as Ghandhiji's ideas of a perfect state and Ambedkar's ideas related to social justice. The idea behind the Vindhya curriculum is to develop public speaking skills, analytical skills and a more in-depth understanding of Indian culture, thought and philosophy.

Rules of Conduct

We expect all students to review and follow these five rule of conduct during school and after-school activity.

Ears Listening



Mouth Quiet



Walking Feet



Helping Hands



Eyes Looking

