

Media Alert

Harmony School of Nature & Athletics Hosts Grand Opening Event

Charter public school students showcase science knowledge to compete for science fair prizes; chance to progress to regional competition

What: Harmony School of Nature & Athletics will hold its official grand opening and first annual student Science Fair. Perched in the picturesque Grand Prairie hills, the new charter school emphasizes science and mathematics, catering to students especially interested in athletics and environmental sciences such as horticulture and veterinary science.

In a 2006 study of students in 30 countries by the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development, 15-year-old Americans rated 23rd on the Program for International Student Assessment math test and 25th on science.

“Harmony is honored to help improve students’ math and science skills and serve area college-bound students,” said Don Strickland, vice principal. “With the Science Fair, we believe the experience of selecting a problem, completing experimentation steps to form a hypothesis and presenting the conclusion teaches students more than traditional science lectures – and may help them discover their potential interest in science and engineering careers.”

The event will feature the school’s formal opening, attended by state and civic leaders, the Science Fair award ceremony and student science fair projects displayed for judging. Area university science experts will judge entries based on creativity, thoroughness, skill, presentation and exhibition.

Photo/interview opportunities include talented students showcasing science experiments, judges evaluating projects, school ribbon cutting with school and state and civic leaders, and students receiving awards.

Who: Teachers and grades K-8 students from Arlington, Cedar Hill, Dallas, DeSoto, Duncanville, Grand Prairie, Mansfield and other neighboring communities. Grand opening guests include:

- Texas Senator Royce West, Dallas District 23
- Mayor David Green, Duncanville
- Councilman David A. Neumann, Dallas
- Mavis Best Knight, Texas State Board of Education member
- Blake Killingsworth, Dallas Baptist University

When: Saturday, January 15, 2011
9 a.m.-12 p.m. Science Fair judging
12:15-1:30 p.m. Science Fair public viewing
1:30 - 3 p.m. School Opening & Science Fair Award Ceremonies

Where: Harmony School of Nature & Athletics; 8120 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas, Texas

About: Harmony Public Schools are high-performing K-12 Texas public charter schools focusing on math, science, engineering and computer technologies to provide opportunities for underserved communities. Almost 17,000 students attend 33 locations with a 100% college acceptance rate. Visit <http://hsnature.org>.

Media Don Strickland, vice principal

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