

Media Alert

Harmony Charter Schools Hosts Robotics Competition

Growing charter public school system showcases students' achievement in science, technology, engineering and math at 2nd annual robotics competition; 28 Harmony campuses across the state of Texas competing.

What: Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, TX, March 3, 2011 -- Harmony School of Nature & Athletics will host its 2nd Annual Harmony Robo-League competition. Harmony Public School students from across the state of Texas will compete by pitting their technological know-how, teamwork, and presentation skills against other campuses.

“While other public schools are focused on minimum-standard state tests, budget cuts, and layoffs, we are motivating our students to master the math, science, and technological skills they will need to compete globally in the future,” says Nusret Butunay, Harmony Robo-League Coordinator.

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.

“Robotics competition is just one of the many ways we keep students excited about their education in science and technology – one of the ways we keep learning relevant to our students' young lives,” said Steven Adamson, Vice Principal of Harmony School of Nature and Athletics.

The mission of the competition this year is termed “Robo-Dart.” The goal is to design and program a robot to project 20 individual plastic coins toward a 4' X 8' bulls-eye-painted platform. Judging criteria includes target accuracy, teamwork, and student presentation of their robots, skills increasingly lacking in U.S. public education.

Photo/interview opportunities include talented students showcasing their robots, parents, school staff, and guests from the T-STEM academies (Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Who: Teachers and students from grades 6-8 living in Arlington, Cedar Hill, Dallas, DeSoto, Duncanville, Fort Worth, Crowley, Grand Prairie, Mansfield and other neighboring communities and throughout the state.

When: Saturday, March 5th, 2010

9 a.m.to 1 p.m. (Student Competition and Technical Judging)

1:30 p.m. (Award Ceremony)

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>.

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