

BUSINESS PROFILE

Deadline nears to apply at new charter school

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Summer has just begun, yet the 2007-08 school year is already on the minds of many as a new charter school nears its application deadline for its upcoming inaugural year. Harmony Science Academy (HSA) is opening its Beaumont campus in August. However, those interested in attending this math and science-oriented school have only a few days left to apply for the upcoming school year.

"Harmony Science Academy-Beaumont is a part of high performing charter school network that has schools in Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso, Fort Worth, Austin, and Houston," explains Ahmet Faruk Cetinkaya, principal of Harmony Science Academy. "As the largest city in Southeast Texas, Beaumont is the center of one of the largest refining and petrochemical centers in the nation. Beaumont has been serving the entire region as the hub for government, education, health care and entertainment. Beaumont is a special place with unlimited potential.

"Because Harmony Science Academy is a college preparatory school focusing on science, math and computer technologies, we feel that our students will be able to exploit opportunities that this great city offers," added Cetinkaya. "Cities like Beaumont need more schools that offer a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing science and technology education. Harmony Science Academy-Beaumont will strive to play a role in satisfying this need. HSA-Beaumont



will offer programs to develop skills and education for its students to enroll in science and engineering departments of prestigious colleges in the country and compete in an increasingly demanding workplace of science and technology, and contribute to the long-term economic development of the region."

Focusing on small classroom sizes, Harmony Science Academy-Beaumont plans to enroll 300 students for its kindergarten through eighth-grade curriculum. To date,



Courtesy photos



the local response has been enthusiastic. "Soon after city approval of the school location on 4055 Calder Avenue (former Market Basket store), hundreds of people are calling and sending in their childrens' applications. Many people visit our construction site and stop by our admission office located on 3835 Phelan Blvd. In addition to personal visits, many people have been checking us online and filling out online applications," said Cetinkaya.

The Harmony Science Academy classroom setting will be conducive to learning and will be equipped with technology and visual displays. Additionally, the computer lab will feature one computer for each student. "The mission of HSA-Beaumont is to prepare students for academic success in their future education, enable students to have a broad spectrum of options for their future endeavors, and to prepare them to be effective, responsible and productive citizens.

"The Harmony School model allows room for flexibility, creativity and fine tuning in school policies,

curriculum and management based on local needs," said Cetinkaya. "While keeping state standards and benchmarks as a guiding tool, Harmony Schools implement additional programs to meet the individualized needs of their students, parents and teachers. The small classroom and school size helps to maintain a low faculty to student ratio to achieve performance goals."

According to Cetinkaya, the educational philosophy of HSA-Beaumont is that school exists for the welfare and dignity of the child. Education at HSA-Beaumont is student-centered and each child is recognized as a unique individual with unique interests, needs and abilities.

"HSA-Beaumont aims to develop responsive, productive, and civic-minded youth by inspiring them to follow their dreams while making the world a better place for themselves and others. HSA-Beaumont is focused on core knowledge and essential skills so that children may achieve the mastery upon which further learning will be built. The purpose of HSA-Beaumont is to foster productive attitudes toward work, family, and community. When students have a positive attitude toward school, their perception of 'school' transforms."

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Harmony Science Academy, at 4055 Calder in Beaumont, is tuition-free. Call (409) 838-4000 or apply online at www.hsatx.org.

'Harmony Science Academy is established by Cosmos Foundation that has been organized exclusively for educational, scientific, and literary purposes. The primary objective is to establish Science and Math oriented charter schools.

We believe that Educational success lies in harmony within the triad of Parent, Teacher and Student. Harmony Science Academy (HSA) forms a partnership within this triad to help our students fulfill their highest intellectual, social, emotional and physical potential.'

— Ahmet Faruk Cetinkaya, HSA Principal