The mission of Harmony Public Schools (HPS) is to prepare each student for higher learning in a safe, caring and collaborative atmosphere through a quality learner-centered educational program with a strong emphasis on math, science, engineering and technology.

Harmony Public Schools, operated by the Cosmos Foundation Inc., is a high performing K-12 public charter school system. For over a decade, our schools have provided students living in underserved communities the opportunity to excel in their studies. Students learn in a small classroom environment focused on providing the skills they need to succeed later in life.

HPS in Numbers*

33 Schools
16,000 Students
100% College Acceptance Rate
0% Drop-out Rate

*As of December 2010
Harmony Public Schools are high performing K-12 college preparatory charter schools that focus on math, science, engineering and computer technologies.

In Harmony schools, students develop an understanding and appreciation of science and math by:

- Participating in science and math focused academic competitions.
- Engaging in hands on and project-based learning.
- Integrating technology in science and math learning.
- Acquiring necessary skills to pursue science and technology related careers.

STRONG EMPHASIS ON MATH & SCIENCE EDUCATION

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WHY FOCUS ON MATH & SCIENCE EDUCATION:

- Students who take rigorous math and science courses are more likely to go to college.
- People with strong math and science backgrounds are more likely to be employed.
- Shortages in workers skilled in math/science affect U.S. performance in global markets.

Source: Math Equals Opp; NELS data
FROM STUDENTS TO NOBEL LAUREATES

Our vision is to enable each of our students with the tools they need to succeed in school and in the workplace, while providing options for them to enter math, science and engineering careers. Our hope is to lead our students from the classroom into the world as productive and responsible citizens... and even Nobel laureates.
All Harmony students are encouraged to participate in local, national, and international academic competitions. Since its inception in 2000, Harmony Schools have won over 2,000 awards in these competitions.

**MathCounts®**

**Title-I National Distinguished School Award**
In 2005, Harmony Science Academy-Houston (HSA-Houston) received the Title-I National Distinguished School Award from the US Department of Education. HSA-Houston was one of 2 schools in the state of Texas and one of 52 schools across the nation to be selected to receive this award. This highly acclaimed award is given to schools for their outstanding results in one of two categories: 1) Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years or, 2) Closing the achievement gap among ethnic groups.

_HSA-Houston was the only school which qualified to receive this award in both categories; it was the only charter school to receive the award._

**Best High School**
Harmony Science Academy was listed as one of the best high schools by U.S. News and World Report in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 among 21,000 public high schools across the country.

**The ExxonMobil Texas Science & Engineering Fair**
In 2009 and 2010, projects from Harmony Public Schools made up 10 percent of all qualified competition projects in the 2009 ExxonMobil Texas State Science and Engineering Fair. Since 2000, Harmony Schools have won over 2,000 awards in local, state, national and international science fairs and science olympiads.

**Robotics**
Harmony Schools’ Robotics Program introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. Students, guided by their imaginations and their teachers, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

_HSA-El Paso FLL Robotics Team qualified to represent the United States in the European Open Championship Robotics Competition held in Denmark on May 1-3, 2009_
Harmony Public Schools (HPS) strive for excellence and have been very successful in state mandated TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) tests.

In 2010, 90% of HPS eligible campuses received “Exemplary” or “Recognized” ranking by Texas Education Agency.

Harmony expects each newly established school to reach “Exemplary” status within three years of establishment.

HPS: A NETWORK OF HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS

Academic Ratings

- Exemplary (16)
- Recognized (7)
- Academically (2) Acceptable
Strategic Collaboration

Harmony Schools actively collaborate with colleges, universities, and research institutions.

The goals of these post-secondary partnerships are to:
• Expose students to college atmosphere.
• Empower students with college credit options.
• Provide guidance for college applications, scholarships, and financial aid.
• Provide professional development for teachers.
• Engage students in research projects in collaboration with engineers and scientists.

Academic Offerings

Harmony Schools provide rigorous academic programs such as dual credit and AP courses enabling students to reach their potential in obtaining admission to top level colleges. AP courses include:

• AP English
• AP Calculus
• AP Statistics
• AP Biology
• AP Env. Science
• AP Chemistry
• AP Physics
• AP World History
• AP U.S. History
• AP U.S. Gov. & Politics
• AP Computer Science
• AP Art History
• AP Music Theory
• AP Studio Art
• AP Macroeconomics
• AP Psychology
• AP European History
• AP Spanish

Universities collaborating Harmony Schools include:
The success of our students at Harmony Public Schools is based on a program which emphasizes academic excellence while motivating student achievement. The Harmony School model is Rigorous (prepares students for college), Relevant (reinforces math and science skills) and is underpinned by a tight web of Relationships (a strong culture reinforced by teachers and parents).
The Harmony School System provides a core curriculum centering on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which is enriched, extended, or differentiated to meet the individual learning needs of students. Education in the fine and practical arts, physical education, and language study are valued as integral parts of the instructional program. The curriculum is designed to stimulate intellectual curiosity and develop the critical thinking skills necessary for students to enjoy a full, productive, and balanced life.

Harmony’s standards-based learning environment identifies what students will know and be able to do as a result of completing the instructional program and clearly establishes the criterion for subject mastery. The scope and sequence of the curriculum reflects a continuum of offerings that challenge all students.

Harmony attributes its strong outcomes to three core principles within the school model:

- a challenging math and science curriculum supported by theory;
- a focus on assessment;
- a culture of constructive competition, discipline and parental engagement.
BUILDING BLOCKS OF HARMONY CULTURE

- SAFE, SMALL, AND FRIENDLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
- EARLY EMPHASIS ON MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION
- NURTURING SCHOOL ATMOSPHERE
- HOME VISITS & PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT
- SCIENCE FOR ALL
- G/T PROGRAM
- EXTENDED SCHOOL HOURS AND DAYS

SAFE & SMALL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
Classrooms and small school setting create a safe inviting environment that encourages the student’s desire for knowledge. Harmony provides safe, highly disciplined school culture that focuses on personal responsibility and high expectations.

EARLY EMPHASIS ON MATH & SCIENCE
Students attending Harmony Schools begin specialized math and science instruction in the fourth grade, enabling them to receive a strong math and science foundation from highly qualified teachers at a young age.

NURTURING SCHOOL ATMOSPHERE
The emphasis of the entire instructional program is aimed at meeting the individual needs of each student in order to allow children to develop to their fullest potential. The school establishes an atmosphere in which students develop abilities to generate new thoughts, in order to think analytically, draw logical conclusions, express thoughts in written and spoken form.

HOME VISITS & PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT
Home visits are an essential part of the Harmony parental engagement component for each student. During home visits, teachers discuss student progress, programs and planning. In turn, parents provide priceless feedback and input, and students improve both academically and socially.

SCIENCE FOR ALL
Participation in science fairs is a tradition at Harmony Public Schools. All Harmony students works on a project of their interest in math, science, computers or engineering. Science fair projects a valuable means of applying the concept of scientific method as well as a fun learning experience for the students.
EXTENDED SCHOOL HOURS & AFTER SCHOOL TUTORIALS
Students who are struggling in a particular subject area or course objectives will be tutored during after school hours or on the weekends until the subject is mastered. Both in-class preparation and after school instructions are provided to ensure a higher level of achievement for each student. The extended hours are not only for those needing additional help; gifted & talented and advanced students also receive extended advanced after school tutorials.

G/T PROGRAM
Harmony’s Gifted and Talented Program is designed to meet the unique social, emotional, and intellectual needs of gifted and talented students through the collaboration of students, educators, parents and community members that ensures opportunities for maximum growth and development for life long success. Additionally, the program provides students with unique opportunities to develop individual talents and to strengthen skills.

Research Experience
“My daughter Alice transferred from a public middle school (gifted program) to Harmony Science Academy and has not once regretted it. She found the school to be intellectually challenging. Alice is exceptionally happy with the prep for competitions the school offers. She is earnestly involved in Science Olympiads, Math Olympiads, Math Counts, and UIL. For these competitions, the teachers offer endless chances and time to study and gain any needed help.”

Dr. Jacek Turski, Professor, University of Houston Downtown
The Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative (T-STEM) is a public-private initiative composed of academies, professional development centers and networks. It is designed to improve the instruction and academic performance in science- and mathematics-related subjects at secondary schools.

Harmony Public Schools have been part of T-STEM since the beginning of the initiative. There are currently only 23 charter schools in T-STEM and 14 of them are Harmony schools. As part of Texas High School Project’s T-STEM initiative, Harmony Schools have received funding from public and private institutions such as the Texas Education Agency, Gates Foundation and Dell Foundation.

Harmony schools utilize Project Lead the Way (PLTW) as part of the curriculum. “The Gateway to Technology Program” is offered in our middle schools and “Pathway to Engineering Program” is offered in our high schools.

Project-based Learning (PBL) is also used as part of the math, science, computer and engineering curriculum.
**CUSTOMIZABLE & EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION**

**HARMONY SCHOOL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (H-SIMS)**

H-SIMS was developed to assist all stakeholders in our community including students, parents, teachers and administrators.

The modules within H-SIMS are flexible and are adjusted to best suit the needs of each school and the network.

Our parent module gives Harmony parents real-time access to student grades, homework, transcripts, discipline records and library data.

**DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING**

Administrators have the tools they need within H-SIMS to produce reports to make sound decisions, track student progress and teacher assessments.

Teachers can share classroom resources with other teachers.

The Test Analysis module gives teachers and administrators the opportunity to customize the student’s remedial work. This enables our teachers to provide individualized attention to each student.
**COLLABORATIVE AND RESPONSIVE REGIONAL CLUSTER MODEL**

Clusters are led by:
- **Cluster Superintendents** who manage day-to-day cluster-wide responsibilities.
- **Knowledge Leaders** such as experienced school administrators working within clusters, who enable cohesion to school models while developing best practices.

**OUR PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDE SCHOOLS FROM:**
- Arkansas
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Missouri
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee

**REPLICABLE SUCCESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

To fulfill Harmony’s goal of educating students across the nation, Cosmos Foundation has made strategic partnerships outside of the state. Harmony’s unique and replicable school model has been proven to work in multiple locations in and outside of Texas.

The goals of these partnerships include:
- Confirming the Harmony school model is replicable and is effective outside of Texas.
- Serving more students directly.
- Gaining experience from different management relationships with schools and learning from other state educational environments.

Harmony evaluates partnership opportunities with a tool that assesses prospective partners on their strategic alignment, ease of implementation and the likelihood of success.

We give our partners the tools they need to replicate our success by offering them technical assistance in the form of school start-up support, sharing of our intellectual property (school model and curriculum), database support, human resources, finance management, and professional development support.
A UNIQUE AND REPLICABLE SCHOOL MODEL

CHALLENGING CURRICULUM
- Harmony's core curriculum meets the Texas Distinguished Achievement program and offers honors and AP coursework.
- The Piaget, Vygotsky, and Gardner-influenced curriculum challenges students just above their current level with scaffolding.
- Students are grouped by their skills to maximize educational outcomes.

CULTURE OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS
- Focus on constructive competition enables academic achievement to be the primary student focus.
- Beginning in 7th grade, students are introduced to a distinguished graduation plan with the support of a guidance counselor.
- Through yearly research papers, students acquire the skills that they need in college.
- Character education cultivates a community of respectful citizens.

ONGOING ASSESSMENT
- Continuous assessment and prep exams promote high passing rates.
- Harmony teachers are given flexibility in teaching and are not constrained by "teaching to a test".
- Teachers mandatory use of the technology enabled student record database allows for consistently updated information.

“Harmony gave me the chance to reach my true potential; they challenged me and always kept me involved with many of their activities. They still help me currently by allowing me to be a part of their organizations and important events. They prepared me for college and life in various ways.”

Brandon Okafor, Harmony Class of 2007 (Enrolled at UT Austin)
In addition to core Math and Science programs, Harmony is now incorporating additional school models for students who are passionate about other areas.

The new school models include:

- Harmony School of Art and Technology
- Harmony School of Nature and Athletics
- Harmony School of Medical Sciences
- Harmony School of Political Science and Communications (to be opened in 2011)
- Harmony School of Languages (to be opened in 2011)
THE CLUBS INCLUDE:

Animation
Aquatic Science
Arts and Crafts
Baseball
Basketball
Board Games
Cheerleading
Digital Graphics
Drama
Drawing
Folk Dance
Football
French
Journalism
Lego
Math Counts
Math League
Movies
Multiculturalism
Psychology
Reading
Sculpture
Soccer
Sociology
Student Council
Theater & Performing Arts
Video Production
Volleyball
Web Mastering
Wrestling
Yearbook

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

HARMONY CLUBS
A variety of academic, athletic, artistic and technology clubs are offered to Harmony students to help them build social and character development. The clubs include animation, digital graphics, basketball, theater & performing arts, and web mastering. These clubs are offered based on interest of students.

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Harmony high school students are required to fulfill community service hours as part of their graduation requirements. At Harmony, giving back to the community and to those who are less fortunate is taught, modeled and supported.

FIELD TRIPS
Students are offered college field trips as part of their college-bound education. In addition, there are opportunities for students, teachers and parents to participate in national and international field trips.
The International Sustainable World Project Olympiad (I-SWEEEP) is an annual science competition focusing on three critical areas of today’s global education: Energy, Engineering and Environment.

I-SWEEEP promotes engineering inventions and energy efficiency/management discoveries, which will nurture environmental-friendly technology concepts in secondary education. I-SWEEEP gives students the opportunity to position themselves to be the pre-imminent scientists and engineers of the future.

Open to middle and high school students, the goal of I-SWEEEP is to bring the best and brightest math and science focused student projects from science fairs around the world to Houston, Texas.

For more information visit [www.isweeep.org](http://www.isweeep.org)

**I-SWEEEP 2010 FACTS**

- Number of Countries: 70
- Number of US States: 43
- Total Number of Projects: 470
- Number of Competing Students: 690
- Number of Teachers: 360
- Number of Participants: 2100
SUPPORTING HARMONY SCHOOLS

Harmony Public Schools need your support in order to continue providing high-quality college preparatory education to underserved communities throughout Texas.

Parents living in underserved communities are looking for schools to help their children succeed in all aspects of their life. With our 100 percent college acceptance rate and exemplary reputation, there is a high demand for Harmony Public Schools. In fact, our current enrollment of over 16,000 students parallels the number of students currently on our waiting lists.

Your tax-deductible donations to Harmony Public Schools in general or to your local Harmony School will make a difference in the lives of many college-bound children.

To learn how you can invest in the growth of Harmony Schools and give more students to opportunity to learn, contact our development office at (713) 343-3333 or support@harmonytx.org.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
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Vinson & Elkins
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