

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

Good afternoon.

Before we begin, I would like to recognize the Superintendent of the Austin Harmony Schools, Ramazan Coskuner. Thank you for being with us today. We are honored by your presence.

I would also like to take this time to express my gratitude to all of our outstanding science teachers, Ms. Prescott, Ms. Bramble, Mr. Durmaz, and Ms. Linville, for their unwavering dedication to our students as they prepared their science projects.

Additionally, I would like to thank the exceptional staff of Harmony School of Excellence. They are the unsung heroes who support this event.

I would also like to state my appreciation for all of the Science Fair judges who kindly accepted our invitation to evaluate the projects.

Parents, I thank you for encouraging your children to become critical thinkers.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the brilliant and hard working students who created these wonderful projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 3rd Annual Science Fair of Harmony School of Excellence at Austin.

The title of my last year's speech was "Rediscovering the Science". Throughout that speech I highlighted the significance of scientific reasoning and stated my gratitude for all of the scientists who have greatly impacted our lives. Lastly, I wished our students well in their journey of becoming leaders in the field of science.

Every year Harmony School of Excellence's science teachers advise the students as they select, conduct, analyze, and report their science fair projects. This year we began a mentorship program with a more specific focus and expanded approach. In this regard, in addition to all of our science teachers, quite a few math, technology, English, and social studies teachers took part in the developmental process. Each of these teachers coached a small group of enthusiastic students who were seeking additional help while fulfilling their sense of **scientific inquiry**. Please give these teachers a round of applause. Under the mentorship of these teachers, students undergo scientific inquiry as they pose a question, develop a hypothesis, design an experiment, collect and interpret data, draw conclusions, and communicate their findings. A couple of hours ago I had an opportunity to visit the students who presented their projects. They were amazing. They have incredible ideas. I know that many parents are also involved in their

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child's process of scientific inquiry. This is very meaningful to us, since it supports HSE's, as well as other Harmony Schools', learning community.

Parents, your unwavering dedication has made our school what it is today. You have shown your support to Harmony School of Excellence in many ways. Recently, you shared your comments and letters about our success as educational institutions. Some parents went as far as to visit the capitol and other important city, county, and state agencies on behalf of Harmony. Additionally, parents have taken the time to assist with fundraising activities like the Harvest Festival and Chocolate Sales. You are essential party which has made student success possible. Parents, please stand up. Please give them a round of applause.

Now, I would like to share some exciting news regarding one of many HSE student accomplishments. Two days ago Harmony School of Excellence participated in the UIL regional contest. Several schools within our region participated. It is my honor to announce that HSE's competing students were awarded 3 first places, 4 second places, 4 third places, and several fourth and fifth places. Please give the students and their coaches a round of applause. I am very hopeful that I will later be able to announce the winners of the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival which takes place in February.

Students will be able to enjoy this wonderful experience due to their scientific curiosity which resulted in scientific inquiry. Thankfully, our students are encouraged by many individuals and many institutions. This level of support cannot end at the conclusion of today's school science fair. We must continue to promote our children's love of learning for many years to come, because curiosity is the root of success. I believe that everyone in our learning community will continue to promote our students' scientific enthusiasm and inquiry.

As the Faculty and Staff we will continue to work as a team and collaborate to provide the best service to all of our students. The Harmony Family will continue to gather for these kinds of events. I would like to wish our students a life which is full of curiosity and successful inquiries. Again, thank you for coming and sharing this event with us.

Halit Erdogdu

Principal