



## **Math, science wave of the future**

**Our view: Proposed charter school, local partnerships portend well for area youths. Article Launched:02/12/2007 12:00:00 AM PSTA**

### **Charter school to focus on aeronautics and engineering, proposed near San Bernardino International Airport, sends hopes soaring for the prospects of area students as much as for the city's economy.**

And though the prospect of a charter school, no matter how advanced the concept, tends to leave us a little leery considering the problems of various charters, the game plan for the Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy is especially enticing, given its expert credentials.

The charter school's focus meshes well with the efforts of the public school system to advance math and science education. And it couldn't be more fitting to place the school near the former Norton Air Force Base.

The academy, proposed by the Apple Valley-based Lewis Center for Educational Research, could open as soon as September, if approved by the county Board of Education this spring.

The school, initially for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders but eventually slated to become K-12, would partner with Kelly Space and Technology Inc. and Loma Linda University. The Lewis Center, which serves 29,000 students nationwide and has a highly successful campus in the High Desert that also focuses on math and science, partners with NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The center, which works closely with lab universities to try out new education techniques, said it was drawn to San Bernardino because of its strong relationships with UC Riverside, the University of Redlands and Cal State San Bernardino.

Following that trend, San Bernardino County schools are partnering with the private sector via the Alliance for Education to make math and science more relevant for high school students.

In a workshop given early this month by sheriff's crime-scene investigators, honors students from San Bernardino High School were called on to use the trigonometry and physics lessons they had learned in the classroom to try to solve a murder.

With "CSI" as the backdrop for real-world applications of math and science, the eager students plugged in formulas on their calculators to determine trajectory of blood splatters and angle of impact.

The Sheriff's Department hopes to provide four such tutorials per year, open to any school in the county.

Focusing on the math and science abilities of area students, from elementary schoolkids to high schoolers, is sure to brighten not only their futures, but also prove positive for shaping the local work force, and taking advantage of the area's potential bright stars.

Visit The Sun Newspaper – [www.sbsun.com](http://www.sbsun.com)