

Charter Day School



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Roger Bacon Academy Names New Headmaster Cramer to Head Academy for Charter Day School

Mr. Mark Cramer was named Headmaster and Chief Executive Officer of The Roger Bacon Academy, which will operate the public, tuition-free Charter Day School in Brunswick County on its new 50-acre campus site off of Highway 74 at Highway 87 South

Mr. Cramer was formerly the Administrator and Principal for MBA Academy, a private school serving US citizens in Okinawa, Japan. Before becoming MBA's Principal, Mr. Cramer retired at the rank of Major after 20 years' service in the US Marine Corps. Upon returning to the Cape Fear area, Mr. Cramer joined The Roger Bacon Academy to apply his experience in education, administration, leadership, and team building as its Headmaster and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Cramer attended Oregon State University. After graduation he joined the United States Marine Corps and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in July of 1979. During his twenty-year career he held a variety of management and administrative positions, including tours as commanding officer and operations officer for several infantry units. His final tour of duty brought him back to North Carolina where he served as the Base Magistrate for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Mr. Cramer's dedication to his community and to education led him to serve as a member of the school board for Wilmington Christian Academy for several years, where he also chaired their Long Range Planning Committee. He was also president of the school's Booster Club. His four children attend the academy, and he has been often called upon as a substitute teacher. His wife Nancy, a native of the Cape Fear area, is a registered nurse and

is currently employed with Wilmington Health Associates at the Children's Clinic in Wilmington.

Mr. Cramer will establish and evolve the detailed policies and operational procedures for the new school that will become the foundation for its growth into a K-12 institution of the highest caliber. He is also responsible for all personnel decisions and will supervise the day-to-day operations of the school in accordance with the guidelines as set forth by the Charter Day School. Mr. Cramer will oversee the school's Direct Instruction curriculum and ensure that it fulfills the school's goal of challenging every child to their fullest potential. For example, one objective for Kindergarten is that every child becomes a reader before entering first grade.

"The Academy is fortunate to have a leader with the extensive range of abilities that Mr. Cramer has demonstrated throughout his career. His experience and talents will now benefit the Academy's students, parents, staff, and our community at large," stated Mr. Baker Mitchell, trustee for the school.

"I was attracted to The Roger Bacon Academy by its dedication to traditional educational principles while using state-of-the-art technology to increase the efficiency of the personnel. This technology also heightens the excitement and interest that can capture and hold a young student's attention," said Mr. Cramer. "A \$60,000 start-up grant from the federal government will be used to install a high-speed campus-wide computer network with broadband Internet access and multimedia video and surround-sound systems in each class room. Using a large-screen projector and sound system, a teacher can take her class on a tour of the Grand Canyon, or to a Carnegie Hall concert, or view art in the world's great museums. Thus, the system creates a virtually boundless horizon for the learning environment," he added.

The school's Internet access will also let each parent be given a password to see their child's grades and progress at any time. They can also see upcoming assignments and work that may be overdue. Parents can get access to the Internet at the school and at local libraries and community centers, as well as take advantage of low-cost economical plans for acquiring in-home access if they wish.

Charter Day School is accepting students in grades K, 1, and 2 to begin operation in August 2000. The school will add a grade each year thereafter leading to a full K-through-12 campus.

Mr. Cramer said that although a number of students have already enrolled, many parents still do not realize that charter schools are tuition-free. “They should investigate the possibilities and take advantage of this free choice that the state is offering them. We still have a number of vacancies available for any parent who wishes to enroll their child,” Mr. Cramer said. “In addition to our comprehensive curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities, we are trying hard to heighten awareness of the fact that we are free-of-charge, tax funded, and open to all students,” Mr. Cramer said.

Anyone interested in attending the school is invited to visit the web site at www.RogerBacon.net for more information and to be placed on the mailing list. Or interested parties may call Charter Day School at 796-1214 to receive more information.