Launched in September 2000 by an industry and educator coalition, the Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High is an independent public charter school serving 543 students in grades 9-12. The school’s mission is to prepare a diverse range of students for postsecondary education, citizenship, and leadership in the high technology industry.

Innovative features include performance-based assessment, daily shared planning time for staff, state-of-the-art technical facilities for project based learning, internships for all students, and close links to the high tech workplace. Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, High Tech High (HTH) graduated its first class in June 2003.

HTH ranks near the top in raw scores on California standardized tests (94th percentile statewide).

Since opening, HTH has been one of the highest scoring schools in San Diego County on the California Academic Performance Index.

At HTH, learning is connected to the world beyond school. To graduate, each student must complete a substantial Academic Internship in a local business or social service agency.

There is no test to get into HTH; students are accepted by lottery, resulting in an ethnically and economically diverse student body. There are about five applicants for every available place.

CEEB Code: 052951
Total enrollment: 543, grades 9-12
69% students of color
48% female, 52% male
37% Pell Eligible
Students and Faculty

High Tech High students reflect the full socio-economic and cultural diversity of the San Diego Unified School District. The criteria for admission are simple: California residence, graduation from the 8th grade, and an expressed interest in attending the school. Students are chosen for admission via zip code based lottery system, ensuring a diverse student body. Over 1,000 students applied for the initial cohort of 200 places.

The HTH faculty, 28 in all, consists of a diverse mix of master teachers, newly trained teachers, and individuals from industry. Each HTH faculty member serves as an advisor to about 15 students. Teachers work in teams, responsible for the academic achievement of the 50-70 students in their group.

Program

High Tech High (HTH) is not a technology high school. Some HTH students may specialize in computer programming, but all students use technology to engage in a wide range of pursuits: scientific, mathematical, literary, historical, artistic, and aesthetic.

HTH teachers work in teams to integrate the curriculum across subject areas. Students master critical content while pursuing their interests through individual and small-group projects. Frequent exhibitions and “Presentations of Learning” help students develop valuable skills of analysis and communication.

As High Tech High teachers develop curriculum, they consider the California academic content standards and the six core Deeper Learning Competencies, which call for students to: master core academic content, think critically & solve complex problems, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, learn how to learn and develop academic mindsets. All HTH academic core courses have been approved by the University of California.

Senior Projects

The senior project is the culmination of students’ personalized academic endeavors at High Tech High. Seniors are encouraged to pursue a project that responds to their personal interests, college and career goals, and curiosities. Spanning an entire academic year, the project requires students to set large goals, demonstrate independent learning, manage complex and challenging tasks, and present substantive work to a panel of experts.

Course Offerings

Rigorous Curriculum without Advanced Placement Courses

The HTH curriculum is characterized by courses that encourage students to focus in depth on important concepts and issues. Junior and senior students have the option to take any core-academic course, and Spanish II, for honors credit. Advanced Placement courses are not offered, because HTH focuses on covering topics in depth rather than offering shallow survey courses.

**English:** English 1, English 2, English 3, English 3 (H), English 4, English 4 (H), World Literature 1, 2

**History/Social Science:** World Cultures and Geography, Government, Modern World History, U.S. History, U.S. History (H)

**Mathematics:** Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, Math 3 (H), Math 4, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Calculus (H)

**Lab Sciences:** Physics, Physics 3, 4, Physics 3, 4 (H) Chemistry, Biology, Biology (H), Biology 3, 4, Applied Physics & Engineering, Engineering Research & Development

**Foreign Language:** Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 3 (H), Spanish 4

**Visual Arts:** Art 1, 2, Art History, Painting 1, 2, Visual Technology 1, 2, Multimedia Production 1, 2, Multimedia Production 3, 4, Digital Art and Mixed Media 1, 2, Video Production

**College Prep Electives:** Environmental Science, ESCI (Honors), Principles of Engineering, Biotechnology, PLTW Engineering Design & Development

**Intersession Electives:** On the transcript these courses are labeled with an I. They do not count toward graduation and the grades are not calculated into the GPA.

College Courses

The 2007-2008 academic year was the inaugural year of the concurrent enrollment program between High Tech High and the University of San Diego. Through a selective application process, 24 HTH students are chosen each semester and given an opportunity to take one college class during their senior year at the University of San Diego free of charge. In addition to taking courses at USD, HTH students often take community college course through the San Diego Community College District. These courses are strictly for enrichment and are not applied toward graduation credit.
Graduation Requirements

Course | HTH Required Years
--- | ---
A: History/Social Science | 3
B: English | 4
C: Mathematics | 4
D: Lab Sciences | 4
E: Language other than English | 2
F: College Prep Electives | 1
G: Visual / Performing Arts | 1

To graduate, High Tech High students must also complete at least one workplace internship of one hundred hours, plus a substantial Senior Project.

Block Schedule

High Tech High students take most of their courses on a “block schedule.” The math courses are taught on a traditional semester (1.5 credits) year-long schedule. However, other core classes are taught in two-hour blocks and students receive a year’s worth of credit (3.0 credits) in one semester. Courses in English, social sciences, Spanish, and lab sciences are all taught on a block schedule.

Grade Distribution

HTH Class of 2020 through junior year, class size =123

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Digital Portfolios / ZeeMee Accounts

In addition to the measures of achievement required of all California high school students, High Tech high students develop a digital portfolio that provides a comprehensive look at each student’s work, learning, and personal growth. When building their digital portfolios students have options of using tools such as Weebly or ZeeMee as their platform of choice. This digital portfolio will contain work samples, personal statements/stories, and display their extra-curricular activities. Additionally, students capture their internship and job shadow experiences in these digital portfolios that ultimately have the authentic audience of college admission committees.

Academic Internships at High Tech High

One of most important elements of a High Tech High education is a connection to the real world of adult work and productivity. At HTH schools, we facilitate this connection by hiring teachers who have experience outside the classroom; encouraging projects that have real applications; inviting professionals in to the school throughout the year; and creating an internship experience for students.

HTH students work and learn at businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations and professional associations around San Diego County. Each student is matched with an individual mentor. Each student develops a project that contributes to the organization and is linked to the student’s academic work. Internships take place for 35-40 hours per week for a three week period during the spring semester in their junior year. HTH has developed academic internships with over 100 local businesses and organizations including:

- Alvarado Medical Center
- Anadys Pharmaceutical
- The Art Institute of California
- Austin Veum Robbins Partners
- The Corky McMillin Companies
- County of San Diego Office of Public Defender
- FOX 6 News Interactive, Inc.
- MANPOWER, Inc.
- The Port of San Diego
- Qualcomm Incorporated
- Randall Lamb Engineering
- Revolution Ventures
- San Diego Gulls Professional Hockey
- Seabotix, Inc.
- Sharp Memorial Hospital
- SPAWAR - Systems Center
- Sullivan International Group
- Telepacific Communications
- University of San Diego
- U.S. Department of Commerce
A College Going Culture

Of the 126 graduates in the Class of 2019, 123 (96%) will be entering college in the fall, 78 (62%) will be attending a 4-year college and 48 (34%) will be attending a 2-year college. 17 (14%) will be entering the University of California system, while 33 (26%) will be attending the California State University system. 17 (14%) will attend out-of-state institutions in 11 different states (Arizona, Colorado, DC, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Virginia).

Class of 2019 College Acceptance List

Adelphi University
Arizona State University
Azusa Pacific University
Baylor University
Binghamton University
Boston University
Brigham Young University
Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Brigham Young University, Idaho
Bryant University
California Baptist University
California College of the Arts (San Francisco)
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona
California State University
- Bakerfield
- Channel Islands
- Chico
- Dominguez Hills
- East Bay
- Fresno
- Fullerton
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Monterey Bay
- Northridge
- Sacramento
- San Bernardino
- San Marcos
Central Washington University
Cleveland State University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Creighton University
D’Youville College
Daemen College
Dominican University of California
Eckerd College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott
Emerson College
Emory University
Exeter College
Fort Lewis College
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
Gettysburg College
Gonzaga University
Grossmont College
Hawaii Pacific University
Holy Names University
Howard University
Humboldt State University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Laguna College of Art and Design
Lawrence Technological University
Lewis & Clark College
Lincoln University
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Marymount California University
Maryville University
Michigan State University
Montana State University, Bozeman
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Notre Dame de Namur University
Occidental College
Oregon State University
Otis College of Art and Design
Otterbein University
 Pace University, New York City
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Point Loma Nazarene University
Portland State University
Providence College
Purdue University
Reed College
Regis University
Rhodes College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Mary’s College of California
San Diego City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Santa Barbara City College
Scripps College
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Sonoma State University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Syracuse University
The Art Institute of California
The George Washington University
The Ohio State University
The University of Arizona
Union College (New York)
United States Naval Academy
University of Advancing Technology
University of California
- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- Los Angeles
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Maine
University of Missouri Columbia
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of New Mexico
University of Northern Colorado
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Urbinas College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech (Engineering)
Washington College
Weber State University
Wellesley College
Western Washington University
Westminster College
Whittier College
Williamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

High Tech High does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ethnic group identification, immigration status or citizenship, race, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, religious affiliation, creed, mental or physical disability, age, parental, family, marital status, ation status or citizenship, race, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, religious affiliation, creed, mental or physical disability, age, parental, family, marital status, and any other or any other basis protected by applicable law in employment, admission, or educational program or activities.