SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

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 508 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: 508, grades 9-12
54% Students of Color
45% Female
55% Male
33% Pell Eligible

STUDENTS & FACULTY

HTH 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 50-60 students in their group.
PROGRAM

HTH is not a technology high school. Some 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 teachers develop curriculum, they consider the California academic content standards and the six core Deeper Learning Competencies, which call on students to master core academic content, think critically and 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 HTH. Seniors are encouraged to pursue a project that reflects 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

HTH courses encourage students to focus in depth on important concepts and issues. Only juniors and seniors have the option to enroll in honors coursework. Advanced Placement and IB courses are not offered, because HTH focuses on covering topics utilizing an interdisciplinary approach, 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, World Lit 1/2 (H)

**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), Calculus, Calculus (H)

**LAB SCIENCES**: Physics, Biology, Biology (H), Biology 3/4, Chemistry, Applied Physics & Engineering

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**: Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3

**VISUAL ARTS**: Art 1/2, Multimedia Production 1/2, Digital Art and Mixed Media 1/2

**COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVES**: Environmental Science, Environmental Science (H), Biotechnology

**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 HTH and the University of San Diego (USD). Through a selective application process, 14 HTH students are selected each semester to take one class for free at USD during their senior year. HTH students also often take community college courses via the San Diego Community College District, but those are strictly for enrichment and do not earn graduation credit.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS

In addition to the measures of achievement required of all California high school students, HTH students develop a digital portfolio that reflects each student’s work, learning, and personal growth. When building their digital portfolios, students can choose to use tools like GoogleSites, ZeeMee, Weebly, or similar platforms. The digital portfolio contains work samples, personal statements, and a list of 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.
To graduate, High Tech High students must also complete at least one workplace internship during junior year, plus a substantial Senior Project.

**ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS AT HTH**

One of the 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 into 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:

- American Money Management
- Cabrillo National Monument
- The Corky McMillin Companies
- County of San Diego Office of Public Defender
- Dark Gravity Productions
- Fox 5 News
- Kensington Veterinary Hospital
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego
- Living Coast Discovery Center
- Metropolitan Transit System
- Paws for Thought Animal Rescue
- Qualcomm Incorporated
- San Diego Gulls
- Professional Hockey
- San Diego Diplomacy Center
- San Diego Youth Symphony
- Scripps Research Institute
- Sharp Memorial Hospital
- SPAWAR - Systems Center
- US Bank
- University of San Diego
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- VA San Diego Medical Center

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

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*Through junior year, class size = 145*
Of the 115 graduates in the HTH Class of 2023, 109 (95%) will be entering college in the fall. 70 (61%) will be attending a 4-year college and 39 (34%) will be attending a 2-year college. Three students elected to take a gap year. 16 students (14%) will be entering the University of California system, while 35 (30%) will be attending the California State University system. Nine students (8%) will attend out-of-state institutions in 6 different states (Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, and Washington), as well as The Netherlands and Italy.

Arizona State University  
Assumption University  
Augustana University  
California College of the Arts  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
Cal Poly Pomona  
California State University (Bakersfield)  
California State University (Channel Islands)  
California State University (Chico)  
California State University (Dominquez Hills)  
California State University (East Bay)  
California State University (Fresno)  
California State University (Fullerton)  
California State University (Long Beach)  
California State University (Los Angeles)  
California State University (Monterey Bay)  
California State University (Northridge)  
California State University (Sacramento)  
California State University (San Bernardino)  
California State University (San Marcos)  
Chapman University  
Clark University  
Colorado State University  
DePaul University (Chicago)  
DigiPen Institute of Technology  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U (Prescott)  
Emerson College  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Fort Lewis College  
Grossmont College  
Harvey Mudd College  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Howard University  
Istituto Morangoni Milan (Italy)  
Ithaca College  
Humboldt State University  
Lewis & Clark College  
Loyola Marymount University  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Montana State University (Bozeman)  
Morgan State University  
New York University  
Northern Arizona University  
Occidental College  
Otis College of Art and Design  
Pace University  
Palomar College  
Penn State University (University Park)  
Pepperdine University  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
Portland State University  
Reed College  
Saint Mary’s College of California  
San Diego Christian College  
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 Clara University  
Seattle University  
Sonoma State University  
Southern California Institute of Architecture  
Southwestern College  
The University of Montana – Billings  
The University of Montana – Bozeman  
The University of Tampa  
University of Arizona  
University of California (Berkeley)  
University of California (Davis)  
University of California (Irvine)  
University of California (Los Angeles)  
University of California (Merced)  
University of California (Riverside)  
University of California (San Diego)  
University of California (Santa Barbara)  
University of California (Santa Cruz)  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Univ. of Groningen (The Netherlands)  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
University of Louisville  
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)  
University of Massachusetts (Boston)  
University of Miami  
University of Nevada Las Vegas  
University of Oregon  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Saint Katherine (CA)  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington  
Washington State University  
Wellesley College