

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

Launched in August 2018 as the sixth high school in the High Tech High network of schools in San Diego, High Tech High Mesa (HTHM) is an independent public charter school serving 440 students in grades 9-12. The school's mission is to prepare a diverse range of students for postsecondary education, citizenship, and leadership grounded in the deeper learning competencies.

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, HTHM graduates its first class in June of 2022.

ABOUT THE HIGH TECH HIGH NETWORK

Developed by a coalition of San Diego civic leaders and educators, High Tech High opened in September 2000 as a small public charter school with plans to serve approximately 450 students. HTH has evolved into an integrated network of sixteen charter schools serving approximately 6,350 students in grades K-12 across four campuses. The HTH organization also includes a comprehensive adult learning environment including a Teacher Credentialing Program and the High Tech High Graduate School of Education, offering professional development opportunities serving national and international educators.

High Tech High is guided by four connected design principles—equity, personalization, authentic work, and collaborative design—that set aspirational goals and create a foundation for understanding our approach.

HTHM CEEB Code: 052795

HTHM Total Enrollment: 440, grades 9-12

59% Students from Underrepresented Backgrounds

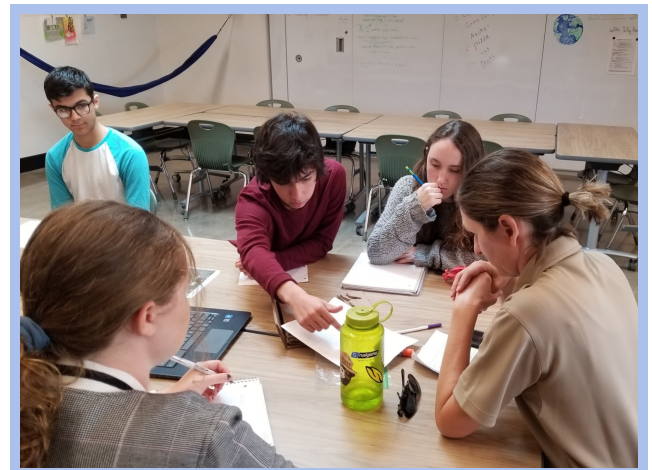
40% Pell Eligible

45% First Generation

45% Female | 55% Male

STUDENTS & FACULTY

HTHM students reflect the full socio-economic and cultural diversity of San Diego County. 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 HTHM faculty, 35 in all, consists of a diverse mix of master teachers, newly trained teachers, and individuals from industry. Each HTHM 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

HTHM is not a technology high school. Some HTHM 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. HTHM 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.

Aligned with Harvard School of Education’s [Making Caring Common Project](#), High Tech High Mesa understands that students often perceive colleges as simply valuing their individual achievements, not their responsibility for others and their communities. The goal of our community is to become more generous and humane in ways that benefit not only society but students themselves. We celebrate collaboration and the success of others and consistent to that mission we do not have class ranking, valedictorians, or individual academic awards.

SENIOR PROJECTS

The senior project is the culmination of students’ personalized academic endeavors at HTHM. 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.

COLLEGE COURSES

HTHM established dual enrollment programs with The University of San Diego and San Diego Mesa College during the 2020–2021 academic year. Through these partnerships approximately 50 HTHM students each semester enrich their learning experience by taking college courses. Courses range from World Religions to Gender Studies and from Multivariable Calculus to Engineering Mechanics.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Rigorous Curriculum without Advanced Placement Courses

The HTHM 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 HTHM focuses on covering topics in depth rather than offering shallow survey courses. 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 HTHM academic core courses have been approved by the University of California.

ENGLISH: English 1, English 2, English 3 (Honors Option), English 4 (Honors Option), Expository Reading & Writing (Honors Option)

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE: World Cultures & Geography, World History, U.S. History (Honors Option)

MATHEMATICS: Integrated Math 1, Integrated Math 2, Integrated Math 3 (Honors Option), Calculus 1–2 (Honors Option)

LAB SCIENCES: Physics 1–2 Chemistry 1–2, Biology 1–2 (Honors Option), Physics 3–4 (Honors Option)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3 (Honors Option), Spanish 4

VISUAL ARTS: Drama & Theatre Arts 1–2, Digital Art & Mixed Media

COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVES: Environmental Science 1–2 (Honors Option)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CREDIT STRUCTURE

| COURSE | HTHM 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 | |
| G: Visual / Performing Arts | 1 |
| | 1 |

Students at HTHM complete courses through two credit structures: “block” and “semester”. A full year’s worth of credit is equivalent to 3.0 credit hours. Courses are set up in which a student can earn either 3.0 credit hours or 1.5 credit hours per semester. Courses in which students earn 3.0 credit hours during a semester meet in class for 2 hours a day and these are known as “block” courses.

Students must also complete at least one workplace internship of 100 hours, plus a substantial Senior Project.

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS

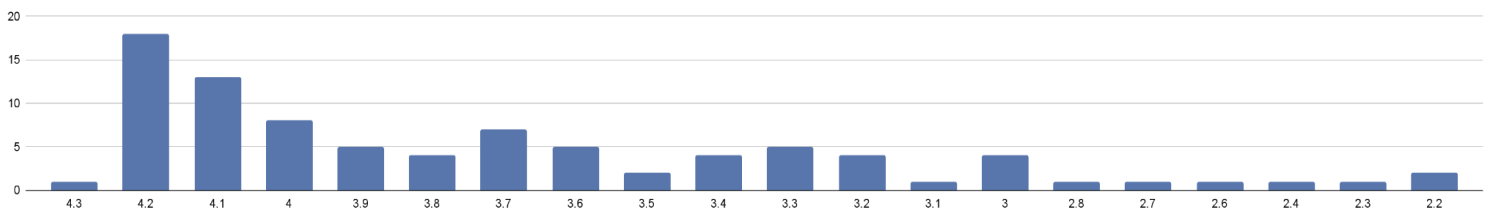
One of the most vital elements of a High Tech High Mesa education is a connection to the real world of adult work. We facilitate this connection by hiring teachers with experience outside the classroom; encouraging projects that have real applications; inviting professionals into the school throughout the year; and providing internship opportunities. HTHM students work and learn at businesses, schools, and other organizations around San Diego County. Each student is matched with a mentor, and works on 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. HTHM 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
 WD-40
 Ecohouse Architecture
 League of Women Voters
 100 Acre Films
 Scripps Institute of Oceanography

GRADE DISTRIBUTION HTHM CLASS OF 2022

Through junior year, class size = 96



HIGH TECH HIGH GRADUATES

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The class of 2022 will be High Tech High Mesa's inaugural graduating class. HTHM's first graduating class possesses the remarkable attributes and achievements that our HTH network is accustomed to seeing from all of our schools. HTHM students strive to receive acceptances similar to that of previous HTH graduates.

University of Advancing Technology
Azusa Pacific University
Brigham Young University, Idaho
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, San Marcos
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irving
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
Carleton College
Concordia University - Irvine
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Daytona Beach Emerson College
Fisk University
Grossmont College
Hampton University
Harvard University
Loyola Marymount University
Maryland Institute College of Art
Marymount California University
Mercer University
Mills College
Mount Saint Mary's University (Chalon)
New York University
Northern Arizona University
Northwestern College
University of Notre Dame
Occidental College
Oregon Institute of Technology
University of Oregon
Palomar College

Pasadena City College
The Paul Mitchell School - San Diego
Point Loma Nazarene University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
University of Puget Sound
Reed College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego State University
University of San Diego
San Francisco State University
University of San Francisco
Santa Clara University (College of Arts & Sciences)
School of Visual Arts
Smith College
Sonoma State University
University of Southern California
Stanford University
State University of New York at Albany
United States Naval Academy
University at Buffalo The State University of New York
Utah State University
Vassar College
Willamette University
Yale University

