

Dr. Diana Cornejo-Sanchez | Interim CEO
Dr. Brett Peterson | Director
Chris White, M.A. | Director of College Counseling



Contact:
cwhite@hightechhigh.org
619-347-6578

SCHOOL PROFILE 2024-2025

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 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

52% 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 a 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 and are 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

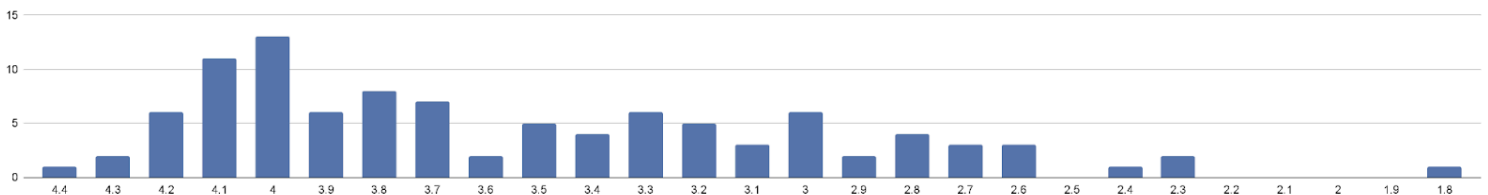
One of the most vital elements of a High Tech High Mesa education is a connection to the real world of adult work. We facilitate this connection by hiring teachers with experience outside the classroom; encouraging projects that have real applications; inviting professionals into the school throughout 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 2025

Through junior year, class size = 103



HIGH TECH HIGH MESA GRADUATES

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The class of 2024 was High Tech High Mesa's second graduating class. HTHM's second graduating class possessed the remarkable attributes and achievements that our HTH network is accustomed to seeing from all of our schools. HTHM students were accepted to the following colleges:

Arizona State University (Tempe)	Hartwick College	The University of Montana
Azusa Pacific University	Hawai'i Pacific University	University of California (Berkeley)
Barry University	High Point University	University of California (Davis)
Boise State University	Hofstra University	University of California (Irvine)
Cal Poly Humboldt	Johnson & Wales University (Providence)	University of California (Los Angeles)
California Lutheran University	Liberty University	University of California (Merced)
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)	Louisiana State University	University of California (Riverside)
California State Polytechnic University (Pomona)	Loyola Marymount University	University of California (San Diego)
California State University (Bakersfield)	Marymount Manhattan College	University of California (Santa Barbara)
California State University (Channel Islands)	Menlo College	University of California (Santa Cruz)
California State University (Chico)	Mississippi State University	University of Colorado (Colorado Springs)
California State University (Dominguez Hills)	Montana State University	University of Colorado Boulder
California State University (Fresno)	New Mexico State University	University of Colorado Denver
California State University (Fullerton)	Northern Arizona University	University of Hawaii at Manoa
California State University (Long Beach)	Old Dominion University	University of Idaho
California State University (Los Angeles)	Oregon Institute of Technology	University of Illinois at Chicago
California State University (Maritime Academy)	Oregon State University	University of Kentucky
California State University (Monterey Bay)	Otis College of Art and Design	University of La Verne
California State University (Northridge)	Penn State University (University Park)	University of Minnesota (Duluth)
California State University (Sacramento)	Portland State University	University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
California State University (San Bernardino)	Reed College	University of New England
California State University (San Marcos)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of New Mexico (Main Campus)
Chapman University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of North Carolina at Asheville
Chicago State University	Saint Mary's College	University of Oregon
Clark Atlanta University	San Diego City College	University of Portland
Coastal Carolina University	San Diego Mesa College	University of Redlands
Colorado State University (Fort Collins)	San Diego State University	University of Richmond
Cornell College	San Francisco State University	University of San Diego
East Carolina University	San Jose State University	University of San Francisco
Eastern Oregon University	Seattle University	University of the Pacific
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott)	Sonoma State University	University of Wyoming
Fordham University	Southern Methodist University	Washington State University
George Mason University	Syracuse University	Whittier College
Georgia Southern University	Temple University, Japan Campus	Willamette University
Gettysburg College	The University of Alabama	William & Mary