



## SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

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 graduated 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 recognizes that students often perceive colleges as valuing individual achievements over 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 with 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 significant 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 essential 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. The University of California has approved all HTHM academic core courses.

**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<br>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 whole 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

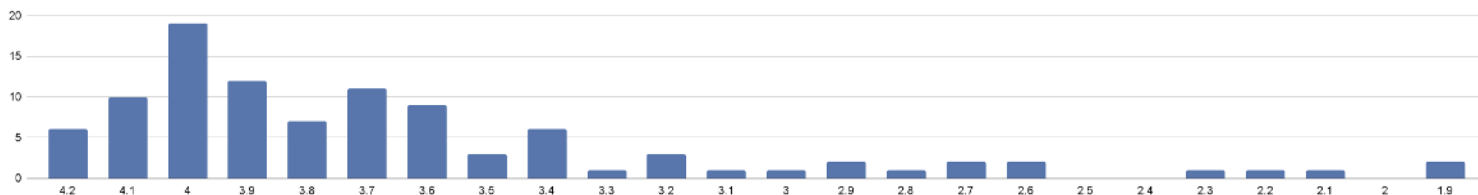
One of the most vital elements of a High Tech High Mesa education is a connection to the real world of adult work. We facilitate this connection by hiring teachers with experience outside the classroom, encouraging projects that have real applications, inviting professionals into the school throughout 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 2026

Through junior year, class size = 98



# HIGH TECH HIGH MESA GRADUATES

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES (Last 3 years)

High Tech High Mesa's first graduating class was the class of 2022, and since then, our classes have 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)                          | Harvey Mudd 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)          |
| Belmont 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)                  | Pitzer College                          | 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                    |
| Colorado College  | 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                                  | Scripps College                         | University of San Francisco               |
| Eastern Oregon University                                 | Seattle University                      | University of Southern California         |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott)           | Sonoma State University                 | University of Wyoming                     |
| Emory University  | Stanford University                     | Vanderbilt 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                            |