High Tech High Media Arts opened its doors in September 2005 and is based on the growth and success of its sister High Tech Schools. Founded by an industry and educator coalition, HTH Media Arts is an independent public charter school serving 400 students in grades 9-12. High Tech High Media Arts helps students develop global awareness through rigorous academics and relevant workplace skills in preparation for rewarding lives in our increasingly technological and interconnected world. Innovative features include performance-based assessment, state-of-the-art technological facilities for project-based learning, internships for all students, and close links to the high tech workplace. High Tech High Media Arts is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Mission
High Tech High Media Arts inspires its students to cultivate their inner strengths and strive for personal greatness as local and global citizens.

High Tech High Media Arts operates on four design principles: equity, personalization, authentic work, and collaborative design. Responding directly to the needs of students, all four principles connect to the broad mission of preparation for the adult world. Moreover, all four call for structures and practices that high schools do not now routinely employ.

The design principles permeate every aspect of life at High Tech High: the small size of the school, the focus on social class integration, the personalization through advisory, the emphasis on integrated, project-based learning and student exhibitions, the requirement that all students complete internships in the community, and the provision of ample planning time for teacher teams during the work day.
Program

High Tech High Media Arts (HTHMA) is not a technology high school. Although some students may have a strong desire to pursue computer related programs, students use technology to engage in a wide range of pursuits: scientific, mathematical, literary, historical, artistic, and aesthetic.

HTHMA 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 in analysis and communication.

As High Tech High Media Arts teachers develop curriculum, they consider the California academic content standards and the High Tech High design principles. This model calls for students to achieve competency in teamwork, technology, communication, art and design, ethics, responsibility, and habits of mind. All HTHMA academic core courses have been approved by the University of California.

Students and Faculty

High Tech High Media Arts 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 admitted via a zip code based lottery system, ensuring a diverse student body.

The HTHMA faculty, 30 in all, consists of a diverse mix of master teachers, newly trained teachers, and individuals from industry. Each HTHMA faculty member serves as an advisor to about 16 students. Teachers work in teams, responsible for the academic achievement of the 50-60 students in their group.

Course Offerings

Rigorous Curriculum without Advanced Placement Courses

The HTHMA curriculum is characterized by rigorous courses that encourage students to explore the depth and complexity of important concepts and issues. Junior and senior students have the option to take any core-academic courses for honors.

English: English 1 (9th), English 2 (10th), English 3 (11th), English 4 (12th)

History/Social Science:

World Cultures and Geography (9th), World History (10th), U.S. History (11th)

Mathematics:

Math 1 (9th), Math 2 (10th), Math 3 (11th), Math 4 (12th)

Lab Sciences:

Physics (9th), Chemistry (10th), Biology (11th), Principles of Engineering (12th), Physics 3/4 (12th)

Foreign Language:

Spanish 1 (9th), Spanish 2 (10th), Spanish 3 or Spanish 3(H) (Optional only for students who had previously taken Spanish in middle school and/or native speakers)

Visual Arts:

Multimedia 1/2 (9th), Art 1 (11th), Multimedia 3/4 (12th), Digital Arts in Mixed Media (12th)

Honor Options:

English: English 3, English 4
History: U.S. History
Math: Math 3, Calculus (Math 4)
Lab Sciences: Biology, Environmental Science, Physics 3/4
Foreign Language: Spanish 3

College Courses

Through a selective application process, 14 HTHMA (7-Fall/7-Spring) students are able to take part in a special concurrent enrollment program between HTHMA and the University of San Diego. As part of the program, HTHMA students have the opportunity to take courses at the University of San Diego. In addition, HTHMA students also have the opportunity to participate in the San Diego Mesa Community College Accelerated College Program. Through this program and partnership, Mesa College faculty members teach courses at HTHMA in which students can earn transferable college credit.

CEEB Code: 054054

Total enrollment: 400, grades 9-12

Student Demographics

Hispanic/Latino - 52%
White - 26%
Black/African American - 7%
Asian Pacific/Islander - 7%
Two or More Race Categories - 6%
Native American - 1%
Free/Reduced lunch - 47%
51% Female, 49% Male
Graduation Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>HTHMA Required Years</th>
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To graduate, High Tech High Media Arts students must also complete at least one workplace internship of one hundred hours, plus a substantial Senior Project.

Senior Projects

The senior projects are a culmination of students’ personalized academic endeavors at HTHMA. Seniors are encouraged to pursue projects that respond to their personal interests, college and career goals, and curiosities. Spanning an entire academic semester, the projects require students to set large goals, demonstrate independent learning, manage complex and challenging tasks, and present substantive work to a panel of experts. Each semester project will reflect an integration of two disciplines from their “Blocked” classes: English 4, Multimedia 3/4, Physics 3/4, Digital Arts in Mixed Media, and Environmental Science.

Block Schedule

A “Block” class consists of two-hour sessions each day for one semester allowing students to earn a year long course credit for the class.

Block Courses:

**Freshman year**
- Spanish 1 or Spanish 2

**Sophomore year**
- Spanish 2 or Spanish 3 or Spanish 3 (H) (Optional only for students who had previously taken Spanish in middle school and/or native speakers), Chemistry

**Junior year**
- Biology, Biology (H) or Environmental Science (H)

**Senior year**
- English 4 or English 4 (H), Multimedia 3/4, Physics 3/4 or Physics 3/4 (H), Digital Arts in Mixed Media

Digital Portfolios

In addition to the measures of achievement required of all California high school students, HTHMA 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, Wix or ZeeMee as their platform of choice. Each digital portfolio often includes a personal statement, resume, and work samples. 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 Media Arts

One of the most important elements of a High Tech High Media Arts 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.

HTHMA 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 four week period during the spring semester in their junior year. HTH has developed academic internships with over 100 local businesses and organizations including:

- Alvarado Hospital
- Balboa Park
- CA Innocence Project,
- CA Western School of Law
- CalTrans
- City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department
- County of San Diego, Office of Emergency Services
- Culture Shock Dance Center
- Language Acquisition
- Living Coast Discovery Center
- Research Center, SDSU
- Media Arts Center San Diego
- Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
- Naval Health Research Center
- New America’s Museum
- New Children’s Museum
- Port of San Diego
- Project Wildlife
- Qualcomm
- San Diego Dance Theatre
- San Diego Film Commission
- San Diego Zoo / CRES
- San Diego Public Defenders Office
- Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute
- Scripps Institute of Oceanography
- SPAWAR
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- UCSD
- Wild Coast
A College Going Culture

Of the 89 graduates in the class of 2019, 90.1% will be entering college in the fall. 55 (62%) will be attending a 4-year college and 25 (29%) will be attending a 2-year college while 5 (4.45%) will chose to do a gap year, and 3 (2.67%) will join the workforce or military.

Class of 2019 College Acceptance List

- Adelphi University
- Arizona State University
- Bard College
- Berry College
- Biola University
- California College of the Arts (San Francisco)
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- California State Polytechnic University - Pomona
- California State University
  - Bakersfield
  - Channel Islands
  - Chico
  - Dominguez Hills
  - Fresno
  - Fullerton
  - Long Beach
  - Los Angeles
  - Monterey Bay
  - Northridge
  - Sacramento
  - San Bernardino
  - San Marcos
- Colorado College
- Colorado State University
- Columbia College Chicago
- Cornell College
- DePaul University
- Dominican University of California
- Fordham University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Grand Canyon University
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Hillsdale College
- Humboldt State University
- Linfield College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Merced College
- Mesa Community College
- Michigan State University
- Mills College
- Oregon State University
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Pacific University
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- Portland State University
- Reed College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Saint Mary’s College
- 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
- Seattle Pacific University
- Seattle University
- Sonoma State University
- St. Edward’s University
- St. Olaf College
- Stanford University
- Syracuse University
- The New School - All Divisions
- The University of Arizona
- Tulane University
- Universidade de Coimbra
- University of California
  - Berkeley
  - Davis
  - Irvine
  - Merced
  - Riverside
  - San Diego
  - Santa Barbara
  - Santa Cruz
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- University of Oregon
- University of Portland
- University of Redlands
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California
- Vanguard University of Southern California
- Washington State University
- Wheaton College MA
- Whittier College
- Woodbury University

Grade Distribution

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High Tech High Media Arts 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.