

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

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.

### ABOUT HTHMA

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.

**HTHMA CEEB Code: 054054**

**HTHMA Total Enrollment: 400, grades 9-12**

**56% Hispanic/Latino**

**25% White**

**5% Black/African-American**

**8% Two or More races**

**4% Asian**

**1% Pacific Islander**

**1% Native American**

**35% Free/Reduced Lunch**

**44% Female | 51% Male | 2% X**

### STUDENTS & 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, 35 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.

## PROGRAM

As High Tech High Media Arts (HTHMA) 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. We celebrate collaboration and the success of others, and consistent to that mission we do not have class ranking, valedictorians, or individual academic awards.

High Tech High Media Arts 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, aesthetic, and more.

## PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Our local community serves as a starting point to teach concepts across all curriculum. Learning is project-based, hands-on, and grounded in reality. The work students do in school adds value to the community and ultimately supports students developing stronger ties to San Diego.

HTHMA's innovative approach is to build a school around the belief that students can be trusted to design work that is both authentic to their lives and strengthens the communities in which they live and learn. HTHMA students will engage in work that attempts to solve real problems in the community. We believe when the work students do in school has a real purpose, students will be motivated to engage with rigorous content and build the skills they need to fulfill that purpose.

## 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.

## 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. Students are also offered pathways to earn a California State Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish by the end of their senior year.

**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), Environmental Science (12th),

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE:** Spanish 1/2 Language & Culture (9th/10th) or Spanish 2/3 Literature & Culture (9th/10th)

**VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS:** Art 1/2 (11th), Multimedia 3/4 (12th), Music 1/2 (12th), Video Production (12th)

### **HONOR OPTIONS:**

**English:** English 3, English 4

**History:** U.S. History

**Math:** Math 3, Calculus (Math 4)

**Lab Sciences:** Biology, Environmental Science

**Foreign Language:** Spanish 3

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

COURSE	HTHMA 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	1
G: Visual / Performing Arts	1

To graduate, High Tech High Media Arts students must also complete at least one workplace internship of one hundred hours.

## CREDIT STRUCTURE

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, Physics

### Sophomore year

Spanish 2 or Spanish 3/3(H), Chemistry

### Junior year

Biology or Biology (H), Art 1/2

### Senior year

English 4 or English 4 (H), Video Production, Environmental Science or Environmental Science (H), Math 4 or Calculus (H)

## 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 HTHMA

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 into 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 and senior years. 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  
Cabrillo National Monument  
CalTrans  
City of San Diego Park and Recreation  
Department  
County of San Diego, Office of  
Emergency Services  
Culture Shock Dance Center  
GRID Alternatives  
Language Acquisition  
Living Coast Discovery Center  
Research Center, SDSU

Meals-On-Wheels, San Diego  
Media Arts Center San Diego  
Museum of Contemporary Art, San  
Diego  
Naval Health Research Center  
New America's Museum  
New Children's Museum  
Outside the Lens  
Port of San Diego  
Project Wildlife  
Qualcomm  
Salk Institute of Biological Sciences  
San Diego Dance Theatre  
San Diego Film Commission  
San Diego Zoo / CRES

San Diego Public Defender's Office  
San Diego River Park Foundation  
San Diego YMCA  
Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical  
Discovery Institute  
Scripps Institute of Oceanography  
SPAWAR  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Wild Coast

## | A COLLEGE GOING CULTURE

Of the 85 graduates in the class of 2023, 75 (88%) will be entering college in the fall. 57 (67%) will be attending a 4-year college and 18 (21%) will be attending a 2-year college, while 10 will choose to do a gap year, join the military, or join the workforce.

## | HTH MEDIA ARTS CLASS OF 2023 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Bard College Berlin  
Boston University  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
California Lutheran University  
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)  
California State Polytechnic University (Pomona)  
California State University (Bakersfield)  
California State University (Channel Islands)  
California State University (Chico)  
California State University (Dominguez 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  
Concordia University (Irvine)  
Dillard University  
Grand Canyon University  
Greensboro College  
Grossmont College  
Harris-Stowe State University  
Hawai'i Pacific University  
Menlo College  
Missouri State University (Springfield)  
New York University  
Northern Arizona University  
Oregon State University  
Pacific Northwest College of Art at Willamette University  
Paine College  
Paul Quinn College  
Pepperdine University

Portland State University  
San Diego City College  
San Diego Mesa College  
San Diego Miramar College  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Sonoma State University  
Southwestern College  
Spelman College  
St. John's University  
Temple University, Japan Campus  
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 (Colorado Springs)  
University of Hawaii at Hilo  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
University of La Verne  
University of Massachusetts (Amherst)  
University of Massachusetts (Boston)  
University of Oregon  
University of Portland  
University of Redlands  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Willamette University  
Woodbury University