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HIGH TECH HIGH
HTH ®
MEDIA ARTS

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SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

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: 370, grades 9-12
58% Hispanic/Latino
22% White
6% Black/African-American
8% Two or More races

3% Asian
1% Pacific Islander
1% Filipino
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 18 students. Teachers work in teams, responsible for the academic achievement of the about 50 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 with that mission, we do not have class ranking, valedictorians, or individual academic awards.

HTHMA is not a technology high school. Some HTHMA 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. 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 of analysis and communication.

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 (USD). As part of the program, HTHMA students have the opportunity to take courses at USD. 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, English 2, English 3 (Honors Option), English 4 (Honors Option)
HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE: World Cultures and Geography, World History, U.S. History (Honors Option)
MATHEMATICS: Math 1, Math 2, Math 3 (Honors Option), Calculus (Honors Option)
LAB SCIENCES: Physics, Chemistry, Biology (Honors Option) , Environmental Science (Honors Option)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3 (Honors Option)
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: Art 1/2, Digital Art and Mixed Media, Music 1/2, Digital Music Production, Video Production (Honors Option)

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 (3.0) for the class.

Block Courses:
Freshman year
Spanish 1 or Spanish 2, Physics 1/2
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), Calculus 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
Athenaeum Arts Center
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
KIPP Adelante Preparatory Academy
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 American'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
Tech4Learning
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
U.S. Department of Commerce
Wild Coast
Wild Willow Farm & Education Center

A COLLEGE GOING CULTURE

Of the graduates in the class of 2025, 89 (92%) will be entering college in the fall. 55 (57%) will be attending a 4-year college and 34 (35%) will be attending a 2-year college, while 8 will choose to do a gap year, join the military, or join the workforce.

HTH MEDIA ARTS COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES (Last 3 Years)

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)
DePaul University
Georgetown University
Grand Canyon University
Greensboro College
Grossmont College
Harris-Stowe State University
Hawai'i Pacific University
Johns Hopkins University
Lafayette College
Menlo College
Middlebury College
Missouri State University (Springfield)
New York University
Northern Arizona University
Oregon State University
Pace 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
Stony Brook 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 Washington
Vassar College
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Weslyan University
Willamette University
Williams College
Woodbury University