Launched in September 2000 by an industry and educator coalition, the Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High is an independent public charter school serving 584 students in grades 9-12. The school's mission is to prepare a diverse range of students for postsecondary education, citizenship, and leadership in the high technology industry.

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, High Tech High (HTH) graduated its first class in June 2003.

HTH ranks near the top in raw scores on California standardized tests (94th percentile statewide).

Since opening, HTH has been one of the highest scoring schools in San Diego County on the California Academic Performance Index.

At HTH, learning is connected to the world beyond school. To graduate, each student must complete a substantial Academic Internship in a local business or social service agency.

There is no test to get into HTH; students are accepted by lottery, resulting in an ethnically and economically diverse student body. There are about five applicants for every available place.

CEEB Code: 052951
Total enrollment: 559, grades 9-12
60% students of color
49% female, 51% male
34% Pell Eligible
Students and Faculty

High Tech High 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 chosen for admission via zip code based lottery system, ensuring a diverse student body. Over 1,000 students applied for the initial cohort of 200 places.

The HTH faculty, 30 in all, consists of a diverse mix of master teachers, newly trained teachers, and individuals from industry. Each HTH faculty member serves as an advisor to about 15 students. Teachers work in teams, responsible for the academic achievement of the 50-70 students in their group.

Program

High Tech High (HTH) is not a technology high school. Some HTH 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.

HTH 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.

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 HTH academic core courses have been approved by the University of California.

Senior Projects

The senior project is the culmination of students’ personalized academic endeavors at High Tech High. 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.

Course Offerings

Rigorous Curriculum without Advanced Placement Courses

The HTH 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 HTH focuses on covering topics in depth rather than offering shallow survey courses.

**English:** English 1, English 2, English 3, English 3 (H), English 4, English 4 (H), World Literature 1, 2

**History/Social Science:** World Cultures and Geography, Government, Modern World History, U.S. History, U.S. History (H)

**Mathematics:** Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, Math 3 (H), Math 4, Math 4 (H), Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus (H), Calculus, Calculus (H)

**Lab Sciences:** Physics 1, 2, Physics 3, 4, Physics 3, 4 (H) Chemistry, Biology, Biology (H), Biology 3, 4

**Foreign Language:** Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 3 (H)

**Visual Arts:** Painting 1, 2, Visual Technology 1, 2, Multimedia Production 1, 2, Multimedia Production 3, 4, Digital Art and Mixed Media 1, 2, Video Production

**College Prep Electives:** Environmental Science, Principles of Engineering, Biotechnology

**Additional Electives:** Inventions and Robotics, Graphic Design Computer Science 1

**Intersession Electives:** On the transcript these courses are labeled with an I. They do not count toward graduation and the grades are not calculated into the GPA.

College Courses

The 2007-2008 academic year was the inaugural year of the concurrent enrollment program between High Tech High and the University of San Diego. Through a selective application process, 24 HTH students are chosen each semester and given an opportunity to take one college course during their senior year at the University of San Diego free of charge. In addition to taking courses at USD, HTH students often take community college course through the San Diego Community College District. These courses are strictly for enrichment and are not applied toward graduation credit.
Graduation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>HTH Required Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: History/Social Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: English</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Lab Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Language other than English</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: College Prep Electives</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Visual / Performing Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To graduate, High Tech High students must also complete at least one workplace internship of one hundred hours, plus a substantial Senior Project.

Block Schedule

High Tech High students take most of their courses on a “block schedule.” The math courses are taught on a traditional semester (1.5 credits) year-long schedule. However, other core classes are taught in two-hour blocks and students receive a year’s worth of credit (3.0 credits) in one semester. Courses in English, social sciences, Spanish, and lab sciences are all taught on a block schedule.

Digital Portfolios / ZeeMee Accounts

In addition to the measures of achievement required of all California high school students, High Tech high 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 or ZeeMee as their platform of choice. This digital portfolio will contain work samples, personal statements/stories, and display their extra-curricular activities. 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

One of most important elements of a High Tech High 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.

HTH 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 three week period during the spring semester in their junior year. HTH 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
A College Going Culture

Of the 137 graduates in the class of 2018, 134 (98%) will be entering college in the fall, 97 (71%) will be attending a 4-year college and 37 (27%) will be attending a 2-year college. 34 (25%) will be entering the University of California system, while 30 (22%) will be attending the California State University system. 21 (15%) will attend out-of-state institutions in Arizona, Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Hawaii, Oregon, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

Class of 2018 College Acceptance List

Adelphi University
American University
Amherst College
Arizona State University
The University of Arizona
Aurora University
Azusa Pacific University
Belmont University
Boise State University
Boston University
Brigham Young University, Idaho
Bucknell University
Cal Maritime
California College of the Arts (San Francisco)
California Lutheran University
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona
California State Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
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 Marcos
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
Chapman University
University of Cincinnati
Clark University
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Denison University
University of Denver
DePaul University
Dillard University
Dominican University of California
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
University of Florida
Franklin & Marshall College
The George Washington University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia
Gettysburg College
Gnomon School of Visual Effects
Grand Canyon University
Grossmont College
Hamphire College
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Pacific University
Holy Names University
Howard University
Humboldt State University
University of Idaho
University of Illinois at Chicago
Illinois Institute of Technology
Jackson State University
Knox College
University of La Verne
Lafayette College
Laguna College of Art and Design
Lawrence Technological University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield College
Loyola Marymount University
Marquette University
University of Maryland, College Park
Marymount California University
Maryville University
McDaniel College
McGill University
Menlo College
Miami University, Oxford
University of Miami
Mills College
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Missoula College at University of Montana
Montana State University, Bozeman
Montana State University, Northern
Mount Saint Mary’s University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
University of New Mexico
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northern Arizona University
Northwest Nazarene University
Notre Dame de Namur University
University of Notre Dame
Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences
Occidental College
Oregon College of Oriental Medicine
University of Oregon
Pace University, New York City
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific University
University of the Pacific
Paul Mitchell the School-San Diego
Pepperdine University
Pitzer College
Point Loma Nazarene University
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
University of Redlands
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
University of Richmond
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roosevelt University
Saint John’s University (NY)
Saint Mary’s College of California
Salve Regina University
San Diego City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
San Diego State University
University of San Diego
San Francisco State University
University of San Francisco
San Jose State University
Santa Clara University
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Sonoma State University
University of South Dakota
University of Southern California
Southern Utah University
Southwestern College
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The Electrical Training Center
The Ohio State University
Tuskegee University
University of St Andrews
Utah State University
Vassar College
University of Vermont
Virginia Tech
Washington College
University of Washington
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Whitman College
Whittier College
Whitworth University
Willamette University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University of Louisiana