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
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 class 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

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