HTH Overview

Launched in September 2000 by an industry and educator coalition, the Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High Charter School is a bold innovation in public education. A small, diverse learning community with a projected 640 students in grades 7-12, this cutting-edge school is founded on three design principles: personalization, adult world connection, and a common intellectual mission. 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.

High Tech High Mission

High Tech High will provide a diverse student body with relevant academic, workplace, and citizenship skills, preparing its graduates for rewarding lives in the technological society of the 21st century.

Goals

- To integrate technical and academic education in a school that prepares students for post-secondary education and for leadership in the high technology industry.

- To increase the number of students from diverse backgrounds in math and engineering who succeed in high school, post-secondary education, and San Diego's high technology industry. The HTH student body includes Hispanic, African-American, Native American and Pacific Islander students. HTH strives to provide equal educational opportunities for both female and male students in math and science education.

- To provide all HTH students with an extraordinary education, and to graduate students who will be thoughtful, engaged citizens prepared to take on the difficult challenges of the 21st century.

"Here at High Tech High our classes are integrated, and our teachers work together to make sure that our curriculum works out between classes....So it all makes sense, like in all our classes there's kind of like a line that connects them, like an essential theme."
Mandy Ross
Grade 10

"The American high school is arguably the least changed public institution in American society, and we are thrilled to be at the core of an effort to rethink what it should look like. What we are trying to do here is answer the question: What is a good high school?"

Larry Rosenstock
CEO/Principal

HTH Overview

Organizational Structure

High Tech High is organized for independence, flexibility, and links to the community. It is a public charter school, operated as a non-profit corporation by a five-member board of directors. A larger community advisory board includes corporate partners, public agencies, neighborhood organizations, higher education institutions, parents, and other constituencies. A second non-profit corporation, the High Tech High Foundation, is responsible for all fund-raising for the school.

Internally, HTH is structured as a high performance organization focused on personalization, engagement and achievement. Each HTH faculty member serves as an advisor to about twelve students. Working in teams of varying size, teachers are responsible for the academic achievement of the 40-80 students in their group. Overall, the faculty represents a diverse mix of master teachers, newly trained teachers, and individuals from industry with strong content knowledge. The HTH team approach helps teachers make the most of their varied talents, knowledge, and experience.

Facilities

High Tech High's unique infrastructure places it at the forefront of technology for teaching and learning. The 40,000 square foot Building 49, formerly a U.S. Navy technical training center, includes 14 multi-purpose seminar rooms, seven cutting-edge labs, four project studios, a centralized Commons, and a large, high-ceilinged open area known as the "Great Room." Students have access to computer workstations for a significant part of the day and move easily between seminar, lab, and group project work spaces.