




Briggs/Willis/Lugo Team
High Tech High Chula Vista
Class of 2013



The Encyclopedia of an Extraordinary School
By The Briggs/Wilulis/Lugo Team (HTHCV 2013)

Teacher's Note

High Tech High is an extraordinary school: a public charter school with no admissions requirements and no tracking. Students are admitted through a zip-code lottery, resulting in a student body that is economically and culturally diverse.

I was first struck by how exceptional High Tech High was during my Bonanza Day (our version of a hiring interview). Immediately, I knew that I had found the place for me, and began to tell everyone about the amazing experience I had there. However, like most visitors, I only saw what was on the surface, grasping the big picture, but missing out on the small details that define the school. Even after joining the teaching staff, I still had a limited understanding of what makes the school remarkable.

Fortunately, I had two classes of students, seniors who knew the school inside and out and yearned to create a legacy by sharing their knowledge of the school. Inspired by *Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, we catalogued all of the people, place, and objects that reveal how the school is extraordinary. From this list, students drafted encyclopedia style entries about each item, writing from the voice of an anonymous student to tell our audience what High Tech High Chula Vista is all about.

The following book is a combination of those writing pieces. Each entry went through extensive revision, from informal conferences with peers to group critiques with our writing mentors from San Diego State's MFA program to editorial review by the copy editors and editor-in-chief. During the process, students not only improved their writing, but they also learned about each other and gained a new perspective on the school.

This book would not have been possible without the hard work of the students, the influence of my fellow teachers and staff, the support of my teaching partners, Megan Willis and Enrique Lugo, and the leadership of Lillian Hsu, who brought me on mid-year and has stuck by me ever since. I am grateful to be a part of High Tech High Chula Vista and for the opportunity to share my love of the school with you.

Tim Briggs
Humanities Teacher
High Tech High Chula Vista

Editor's Note

How in the world was a class of high school students going to make an encyclopedia in four weeks? Well, when there is a will, there is a way. Our incoming teacher had a strong idea of what he wanted to accomplish after joining into the High Tech High community in February. Although he was new to the school and senioritis had already affected half of the senior class, we all shared a common interest: a love for our school. We used this common value to give us the extra push to create an exemplary display of everything we love about High Tech High Chula Vista, which is captured in this book.

The editing job was not easy. Editors dedicated extra time to finishing their written entries ahead of time and reading over and editing other classmates' work. It's amazing how easily we began to recognize different students' writing styles and how important it was to have different voices shine through the book.

Why an encyclopedia? The answer is simple: to give visitors an insight into High Tech High Chula Vista we had to be complete. The book is a culmination of our collective experiences at this school. All of our memories and thoughts went into this book. Everything that we've learned and lived is what makes this book unique because only we could've written the book this way. The project would not have been possible without the work and commitment of these seniors. From staying during lunch and after school for meetings to total workhorse power hour, everyone involved had to work like a well-oiled machine to get it done. They are what sets this book apart. Only with the love and devotion from the students was this task possible.

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Encyclopedia of an Extraordinary School

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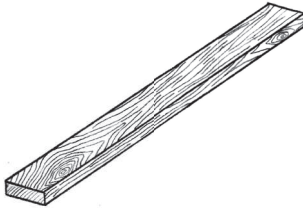
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[pause]

Alphabetized Education



A

Anonomyous Student

I am not a bully. I am not a jock. I am not a cheerleader. I am not a nerd, princess, punk, stoner, or emo. I am hands-on. I learn by doing: designing electronics, writing memoirs, using power tools, acting out a scene. I am opinionated. I share my thoughts openly, even when I am challenging the teacher. I am Spanish speaking – either as my first language or whenever I am around Ms. Marisol or Mrs. Soler. Sometimes I am lazy, but that is only because I choose to be, not because I am lacking direction or passion.

When people see me outside of school, I look the same as everyone else, but inside these walls I am transformed into a superhero. Here, I am set free to be whoever I want to be and to change my mind the next day if that role doesn't work out. Supported by my teachers and peers, I control my destiny by harnessing the power of education and opportunity. I am an artist, gardener, engineer, author, researcher, historian, activist, performer, and architect. I am an individual.

Aquaponics

Aquaponics is a sustainable system in which flora and fauna help each other in order to survive. In the system, we have two fish tanks. One tank contains tilapia and the other one has mollies. With the waste (poop) that the fish leave behind, lettuce, cabbage, and strawberries are grown. At the end of the project, the class had a big salad party where fresh veggies were cut up and everyone brought in different dressings. It sounds a little gross, but the meal was very much edible and even delicious.

Archery

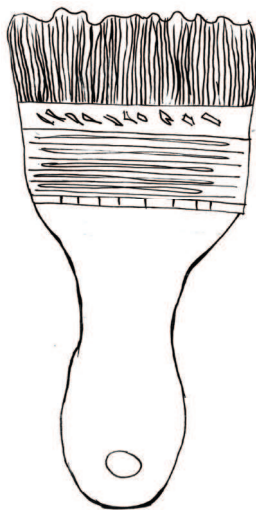
Archery is one of the newer after-school sports at High Tech High Chula Vista. The aim is to fire arrows at a target using an Olympic-style bow. We are one of only two schools in the county that offers archery as a sport. Although most would think of it as a dangerous sport, our school's archery team sees it more as a tool of relaxation and Zen. In a way, archery is a form of meditation.

Close your eyes. Focus on the target with your bow and empty your mind of all other distractions, pulling back your bow you aim at the target, adjusting to compensate for the distance and the wind. You now have your bowstring pulled back and your aim is true. Now you must wait for the perfect moment, when the wind begins to die down, you feel a sense of serenity wash over you. You release the string and... TWANG! The arrow flies away from you and your bow straight into the target's bull's-eye.

See also: CrASH

Art

Art is a staple here and we are encouraged to express ourselves through the creation of art. Art can be a sculpture or a piece of writing, maybe a performance piece or even a mural. Art fills the halls and classrooms and shall be carried out into the world through the students and faculty who've contributed their time and effort.



ASB

ASB is the acronym for Associated Student Body. Many schools rely on this organization to plan and host social events. However, the student body has become unhappy with ASB over the years due to the lack of creativity and general events at the school. It is rare to have an event hosted by ASB, but it seems that they have made a small effort to put on events such as school dances, summer bridge, and a talent show. Every year, students look forward to the newly elected ASB president's promises of a "better" year, but every new year is a new disappointment. Different student organizations have learned to host events such as LAN parties and fundraisers. The fact that HTH does not need to rely on ASB makes it unique. Hopefully, in the new school year, underclassmen will be able to enjoy ASB projects for next year. Perhaps the organization will be able to contribute in planning bigger events for the years to come.

B

Basketball Courts

When a school has no big auditorium, gym, or football field, where do all the regular school activities happen? The basketball courts. This court has more uses than just playing basketball, such as dodgeball, soccer, volleyball, pep rallies, and assemblies. At lunch, it becomes a hang out zone for the basketball players as well as other students who enjoy to watch. In many ways it is the heart of the school, as it represents a place of unity and harmony between students and staff

See also: Sports

Bathrooms

The bathrooms are not only the place where people handle their restroom needs, it is also the hangout place to talk to all your friends during breaks. It is directly in the center of the school, making it a commutative place for all four grades to meet up. The boys bathroom seems to be somewhat dirty, but the girls bathroom is twice as bad. With paper everywhere, unflushed toilets, and unknown liquids all over the floor and sink, who would have known that boys are cleaner than girls?

Bells

Good luck on returning back to class on time, there aren't any bells here. Most kids just rush back because they hear Mr. Ray yelling out in the hallways, "Another day in paradise, get to class!" or Marisol standing outside her classroom shouting, "You are all late! Time for class, everyone is late." Seeing the underclassmen run in fear of getting in trouble

is a pretty funny sight. Teachers tell us that having no bells gives our school a more adult-world type of environment. There aren't any bells in a workplace (unless you're a fireman), so why would we have them in a school? No school bells are needed, just the voices of our staff and teachers.

Boundaries, No

Have you ever noticed that most schools are shaped like a prison? Simple architecture, tall fences, and locked gates to keep people in. Our school doesn't have any of these features. The walls are lined with windows to make the room feel more expansive. There are no gates. The students want to be here. In the metaphorical sense, there are no limits as well. There is barely any time at other schools to explore a subject someone is passionate about. Students are encouraged to engage in the community and talk to professionals, professors and community leaders to learn more about things that really intrigue them. Students are supported by the staff to pursue further education in the field of their choice. If they want to go into agriculture, teachers get them an internship at a local nursery. If they want to learn more about a college, the staff helps set up an interview with one of the professors. Students then go on to fulfill their greatest hopes and desires. We have no boundaries.

BRUIN
☺
CAFE

Bruin Cafe

Bruin Cafe has been up and selling since 2012 and has been going strong ever since. It is a before and after school retail program that serves as a fundraiser for students and staff. This student-led business teaches students about profit and loss, cus-

tomer service, merchandising, accounting, and advertising. Working at Bruin Cafe allows students to become entrepreneurs by designing, developing, running, and implementing the Cafe. Commonly sold items include: Hot pockets, Cup of noodles, mac and cheese, burritos, breakfast sandwiches, corn nuts, chips, red vines, mazapan, jolly ranchers, pop-sicles, ice cream sandwiches, drumsticks, water, Gatorade, Arizona Ice Tea, and Vitamin Water.

See also: CrASH

C

Campus

High Tech High is an open space where students can learn comfortably. Every classroom in the campus has windows and natural lightning. There are four hallways, one for each grade, freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. Each hallway is a specific color to identify which one you are in. The roof has solar panels that run the school using clean energy. The solar panels provide the facility with 70% of its overall energy. Every hallway has a garden where the students can do outdoor projects such as like aquaponics or agriculture. At this school all the students know each other, because our school is small and everyone watches each other while studying or building projects.

See also: HTHCV

Change

Definition: To move from one system or situation to another. Since it has been built, HTHCV has changed very quickly. The environment used to be a desert, and nothing around the school was a social place. Now, next door is an elementary and middle school. People are also changing too. Teachers are and coming and going, interviewing and teaching lessons in our school. More and more students are applying each year to view the change that is happening.

Chickens



Yes, we have chickens. Nugget and Henrietta. They live in the Junior courtyard. They cluck, they lay eggs. They have a homemade pen to wander around in. If you look in the refrigerator, you may find an egg, just remember to wash it off before you eat it.

Chick-Fil-A

Chick-Fil-A is known throughout our school because half the employees at this fast food chain are students at HTHCV. Many students go to enjoy Chick-Fil-A food because it is so close to the school. Eastlake Chick-Fil-A owner Mandy Medlin loves hiring teens to show them the true meaning of hard work, charisma, professionalism and comfortability in front of customers. Whether if its from working at drive through window during a rush, to helping to customers with their food, theres always something to learn. Chick-Fil-A supports our sport teams and projects with fundraisers and donations. It never fails to bring happiness to students and teachers taste buds.

Clocks, Things We Use Instead of

We don't have very many clocks around our campus, so you will catch students using different methods to find out the time.

Table

Phones	Students always have their phone with them. It's only a reach away to find out the time, but WATCH OUT because they might get taken away by the teachers.
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Watches	Wearing a watch would probably be the best route to take when finding out the time, but not very many people can get used to having a band around their wrist 24/7.
NOISE!	You can sometimes tell the time because of the noise outside the classroom of the students changing classes.
Teachers	Teachers will usually tell students when it is time to go on break.

See also: Bells

Clubs

After school programs such as basketball, soccer, swim, track, robotics, Japanese, drama, theater, and year book. Provides a place for students to come by after school and stay for their parents to pick them up later on. The students don't just sit here and do homework all day. We offer different clubs for all ages to hang out, in this time our relationship grow stronger with our peers and instructors. This space that is created wont feel like a normal school that you have seen or been too. We are here not only because we have to wait for our parents but because we want to be. If we lost our after school programs, locked the doors and the staff just left, students would still need a place to go while they wait for their parents to pick them up. Our school wouldn't be known as great as it is. Our robotics club wouldn't have won the championship. Basketball wouldn't have made it to playoffs and all our hard work would mean nothing. We might not have that many after school programs here like

some schools. But what we do have we are proud of having them. Some students would say these are bland activities, but we make up for it with the bonds we connect with peers and staff members.

Collaboration

The future is collaboration. Working together with others to create something is what our school is all about. Collaborating with our peers and teachers happens everyday, and we often work with other members of the community, such local businesses and non-profit organizations. Festival del Sol could not be accomplished without teamwork. Internships are another example of working together where we learn many valuable skills about the workspace and outside world. Collaboration is the future, and the future is here at High Tech High.

College Prep

College preparation is a main focus of our school. Students go through all high school thinking about where they are going for college, and how it's going to be. Students are not only prepared to get into college, they are taught how to be a better person. During the spring, it is exciting to see how many students get accepted to very good schools.

One of that thing prepares students for college are presentations, such as POLs and TPOLs. Everyone gets nervous talking in public, but what really helps students is that everyone knows each other, and that makes them feel more secure speaking in front of people. When students get to senior year, they go through stress because they have to finish all the college application. However, the staff is always there to help them through along the way.

Commons, The

The Commons is a place where everyone in the school can meet. Whether if its for a school event or because we are getting a strict talk from Mr. Ray, the school always seems to find itself in this room. This is the largest room in the school and is used not only as a classroom, but also for things like assemblies, school dances, college meetings, school plays, lan parties, movie nights, etc. It is always decorated by our school's proud work and projects. The main display though, is an enormous mural of a bruin, representing our pride and love for our teams and school. The commons will always be the heart of this campus.

Community

According to the dictionary, a community is a social unit of any size, sharing common values. High Tech High truly defines the meaning of what community is and should be about. We are taught to be compassionate towards one another and to work in a group as opposed to learning individually. There is no discrimination and we can come together to learn, no matter what size, religion, or race we are. Students have one on one connections with each teacher, and we come to school knowing someone does care about our grades, opinions, and future.

Compassion

Acting with compassion is a reward in itself, bringing happiness both to the recipient and the benefactor. Sometimes an act of compassion is as simple as a smile. Remember back on our times in grade school, when a classmate or friend smiled at us from across the classroom or play yard; didn't it feel great? A smile is so much more than just a facial ex-

pression. Through a smile, you can share a little light and love with another human being, like a portal connecting from soul to soul.

Compassion is one of the Habits of Heart and Mind. It is highly valued among the school's population. Being a compassionate person is highly appreciated on this campus. Through projects, presentations, extracurricular activities, and free-time, you will learn how to become more compassionate.

See also: Habits of the Heart and Mind

Computers

Computer labs are becoming more and more common nowadays. Large ones too. But how many schools can claim that they have 20 computers in nearly every room? Everyone has access to a computer whenever they are in class. They do everything on these computers, from solving complicated math problems to designing graphics and editing videos. Students have also been trained to look up any questions they have online before asking a teacher because its important to figure things out on your own. Computers are one of the best learning tools a school could ask for. Just watch out for the error "CV Domain Not Available;" which this happens, the computer has to be taken to Dave to be fixed.



See also: Dave

Cooperation

Cooperation is one of the seven Habits of The Heart and Mind. This means that cooperation is a core value. Here, students will work with people they've never worked with. To succeed, students have to work together to make a project great. Students don't always agree with each other during a project, but if they cooperate, they can come out having an amazing project.

Cooperation is a good skill to have, it can help you out in your future because you will be able to work with anyone. Students have the opportunity to go on an internship in their Junior year. This is a great way to cooperate with different people outside of school.

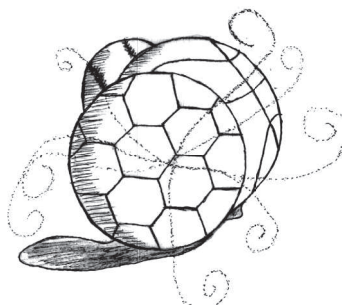
See also: Habits of the Heart and Mind

Couches

There are chocolate brown couches shaped like a half moons in each hallway. The couch is a symbol of relaxation and socialization. No matter what the weather is outside, the couches remain a place to recline and take a breather after a long class period. There is always someone sitting on these couches, because they are our safe havens. They are where we can feel comfortable about being ourselves, and not be bothered.

CrASH

CrASH (Creative, Academic, Sports, Headquarters) is a before, during, and after school program that students can participate in. With the help of a CrASH mentor, students have the freedom to create their own club based on their interest or need and open it to the rest of the student body. First, student' identify a mentor, then work with CrASH



staff to secure a space. After then club is started, it must maintain adequate attendance during the course of the program. Our CrASH programs include year-long and short courses in Academics, Enrichment, and Athletics. Academic Tutoring, College Application

Assistance, and Debate are just a few of the educational offerings. Some of the Enrichment programs are dance, orchestra, robotics, and theatre. There are also sport clubs like baseball, basketball, and flag football.

Creativity

Before I start, I would like to remind you that I cannot write in the first-person because encyclopedias do not do that. Also, refraining from colorful language like cursing and confusing dialect is also encouraged because encyclopedias often do not feature such profanity. If anything, the press wants me to write a short, light-hearted entry on Creativity that goes on about the subject like a vague poem that goes nowhere.

Well, I say f*** them. I write what I want! If I am limited in any capacity on writing about the subject of creativity, then I cannot be more baffled. High Tech High Chula Vista should be proud of their ability to break such meaningless barriers. So what if this article doesn't follow convention, that I'm not cooperating with the standards and code of some dead guy from years ago? Screw that guy for all I care, I'm writing my article! This school is built from defying boundaries, so why not its products? Be free, fellow reader, and defy your obstacles! Conventions and social norms can change, and you can lead that change. That is what Creativity is all about! Take down the man! Power to the people! Yeah!

D

Dave Hua



Dave Hua (aka DJ Dave) is often found in a quiet office tucked in the back of a tiny, shared hallway. He's a huge resource to students and teachers alike, unravelling any IT issues brought to his attention. Many of the underclassmen and even some of the more seasoned students are still somewhat intimidated, but don't fret! Dave isn't scary and no, he won't bite. He's here to do his job, and though students sometimes have tiny slip-ups, he's not one to judge.

When not lurking around in the "Dave Cave", you can find him on his way to fix something or heading out to lunch somewhere. Decked out in his High Tech High polo and shorts, he'll pass silently, as he's a man of few words. However, this all changes when you get to know him and soon enough he'll be more than willing to offer up some life lessons or recommendations on San Diegoan Asian cuisine.

Debate

Bold. It is the word that would define any student of the competitive speech and debate team. They are challenged by Kay, their coach, pressured by their partners, and motivated by the stiff competition. They reflect, assess, and collaborate. Our debaters can comfortably discuss issues of international importance in governments, politics, ethics, economies, and current events. They are bold and opinionated individuals that are empowered by knowledge and understanding. They spend their precious after-school hours grueling over research, fiscal budget reports, scientific studies, supreme court case files, M.A.D. theories of mass proliferation, and classic philosophies.

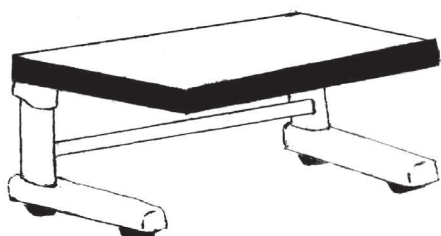
Amongst themselves, debaters strive to create a community of informed young people. Outside the walls of the debate room, these individuals raise the bar and work to positively influence their peers. They help teachers develop awesome debate projects and set up organized socratic-style arguments. What truly makes them extraordinary, however, are the mannerisms of character they reflect on a daily basis. They handle conflicts, mediate, and are always willing to help. They set the precedent for self-advocacy. The contribution speech and debate has made on individuals within the school is immeasurable, but it is easy to see how speech and debate encourages students to bloom into confident leaders who speak out and influence the school's community and culture.

See also: CrASH

Decor

Just observing the shape of the building, you already know it is no ordinary school. When you walk into HTHCV, the first thing that stands out is the expressive and vivid decor.

Every section of the school has a different decor, and each art piece projects a powerful message. The round mandalas hanging from the ceiling, the bright portraits on the walls, and the display of the overwhelming life size projects the students have done or are in the process of completing, inspire students to express their creativity in their work. The lounge style furniture in every hallway adds on to our uniquely designed school. Decor defines our community and expresses the diversity of the student body.



Desks with Wheels

How do other teachers cope without this amazing furniture? A tiny, individual desk with a writing stand will not do for group

work and projects. Wheels create possibilities for the classroom, turning a fixed space into a moving, changing organism, like an ocean with desks adrift on a wave, shifting with the currents of the classroom. A class could start off in neat little rows, like furrows in a field, but when the tide shifts from lecture to activity, desks snap to life, rolling into the corner and folding up to create a theatre, a courtroom, or a science lab. Each room is a puzzle, each desk a piece, creating a Tetris game to be rearranged daily.

Discussions

Discussions are what we do best. Read an article for homework? Class discussion. Brainstorming a new class project? Class discussion. Concerned about the purpose of content were learning? Class discussion. Discussion is the best

way we know to come conclusions. Everyone has opinions and a reason to share them, discussions give us the opportunity to do so.

Displaying Work

As soon as you walk into school, you can see all of our projects. All the colors you can imagine. These student-created projects are exhibited through the whole school. Our hard work shows all the time, and knowing that they are displayed everywhere makes students feel appreciated. No matter what class, one way or the other your project will be displayed.

DP

DP's (Digital Portfolios) are a digital place where students can store anything project related such as essays, reflections, photos, etc. Teachers also have a DP, but they normally use it to post up reminders, homework, and resources for projects. Every student has their own DP, most students use google sites for their DP, but there are students that use other programs. Each student organizes their DP into freshman, sophomore, junior and senior year, and from there it is divided into the different classes they take each semester. Students add the projects they are working on under the class it corresponds to. A DP is helpful when students are doing a POL because it has all the evidence from the semester.

Dress Code

If there is one thing that annoys students, it is the dress code. The school has its reasons for having a dress code, but then again, what if students who don't have enough money to purchase fancier clothes or can't find anything to wear? What if one day they don't have anything in their closet but

forbidden clothing? Over the years, students have tried to overthrow the dress code, with no success. Of course, some students suggested wearing a uniform, but that didn't go well, and you can imagine why. Wearing uniforms saves time in the morning and money on purchasing new clothes, but being teenagers, wearing a uniform is like having to show up naked to school. Should the dress code be abolished? What do you think, dear reader?

Table

<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>
<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •plaid shirts •blouses •polos •cardigans •shorts (same length of knee) •jeans •khaki shorts or pants <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Jeans with holes or rips •Any gang related clothing •caps or beanies •hoodies •graphic t-shirts •tank tops, halter, or strapless shirts that reveal shoulder •flip flops or open toed footwear •Shirts that reveal cleavage •V-necks •sweats or pajamas 	<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •plaid or collared shirts •polos •khaki shorts •jeans or pants •cardigans <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •baggy pants or shorts •any gang related clothing •graphic t-shirts(writing, foul language, bands, logos bigger than fist) •caps or beanies •hoodies •tank tops •flip flops •V-necks •sweats or pajamas

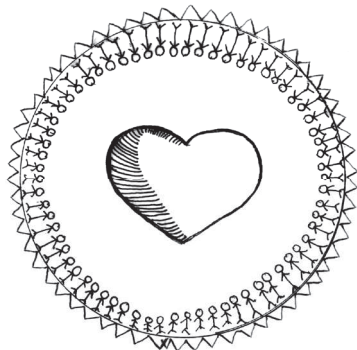
E

Electives

Electives are the heart of the school for some students, staff, and teachers. Electives are not the type of classes that you'd see at any other school. We have dodgeball, drama, yearbook, music, sports, film and editing, cross connection. These are some of the few classes that the students can pick from and the most popular within our school. All these classes that are named here are taken to the next level by whoever is leading the class. The bonds between our staff members and students grow stronger each day we participate in the electives we picked for 6th period. Because of electives, we are able to make connection with teachers and students from all grade levels.

Everybody Knows Everybody

Grade or age does not create a barrier for interaction. Students will interact with anyone because we have a strong sense of community. In sixth period there are several classes that allow students to meet students from other grades. This creates a great vibe all throughout the school because students will never feel alone. Students will likely know someone in each of their classes. This is a very important value here. If everyone get's to know everyone it creates a sense of friendship throughout the school.



F

Faces of the Future

“Faces of the Future” is an important, non-student, annual fundraising event where parents gather to fundraise money for supplies and other class resources. This event was founded by parents and staff members of HTHCV who are concerned about the well-being of our school. The money is raised through silent auctions and donations from different companies in San Diego. It is distributed to student projects and school maintenance. The goal is always to raise more funds than the year before in order to continue to provide an outstanding education for us.

Family

Some bonds cannot be broken no matter how hard people try to break them. Our relationships grow every second, minute, and hour we spend together. We fight, we cry, we live as a family that is and forever will be. Our school is about becoming closer with each other as a family or community is what our dean calls it. Without our relationships that we make at our school. We wouldn't be known for anything. Our school is known for having great connection between the staff and student body. For producing amazing projects on state subjects and for a different way of teaching students. Because we are a family here, we pick each other up when we're down so we can rise to our full potential. We will never prolong one another, we are family.

Festival Del Sol

Festival Del Sol is the biggest exhibition schoolwide. Every year around the month of May, teachers and students get ready to participate in this exhibition which takes about a month to prepare for. With the help of teachers, students create a project that they are really passionate about and would like the community to see. This exhibition is open to the community, families, High Tech Elementary, High Tech Middle and people from the neighborhood to come and see what the students have done. During the process of planning, putting everything together, exhibiting and cleaning up, students say this is one of the best exhibition days ever at school even though it brings a lot of stress to both teachers and students.

First Name Basis

Ray, Kyle, Rod, Marisol, Tim. Notice how we don't call our teachers Mr. or Ms. but as their first names. In High Tech, we have a different connection with our teachers. Students aren't referred to as a number but as a human being. All students are known by their first name, also giving our school a family feeling. The connection that is created at this school is incredible, it makes the students feel closer to their teachers and their school.

Field Trips

When along the line of your K-12 education career did field trips become irrelevant to education? Luckily, we recognize their importance, and implement them into every aspect of our learning. This year alone, freshmen mapped out pieces of San Diego for a geography project by traveling to downtown, beaches and suburban areas. Sophomores conducted an interview at SeaWorld to gain insight on a real life arctic circle expert. Juniors performed art based off the contortion of perception exhibits found at the MCASD. Seniors attended a live streaming of the Presidential Debates at the

City Hall in Chula Vista just before the election of 2012. Field trips keep students engaged by applying the knowledge gained in the classroom to life outside these walls.

Four Years Together (Advisory)

Advisory is a time where students of the same grade level unwind for 20 minutes with their advisory family and talk about current events going on at school. You connect with people in your advisory and develop a close relationship with your advisor. There are many opportunities for advisory to bond, such as college trips, community service, and fun field trips. Advisory olympics is probably everyone's favorite bonding experience. Advisory gives students a chance to be surrounded by supportive and friendly community.

Freedom

High Tech High is a school where students and teachers alike are given lots of freedom. Any student can express themselves in whatever way they want. They base their projects on what they like and who they are, so that they are engaged in their work. Senior project, for example, is a project that all seniors have to do in order to graduate. It's a project that students enjoy because it shows people who that specific student is. Students engage in projects that they find meaningful. If students want to talk about being themselves, then High Tech High is the place for them.

Friends

Throughout high school, friends will come and go. Unfortunately, some, more than others, will barely talk to you anymore. Sad, we know. But the best part about it is knowing that the ones that stuck with you, through the thick and the thin, are the ones that will be in your life forever.

Those best friends are the ones that you are going to have the most fun with. The ones that you are going to be “yourself” around. You always see movies or TV shows about a group of best friends hanging out and think that you want to be like them. Guess what, you should. Here at our school there are plenty of opportunities to find such an accepting group of kids. From robotics to athletics, finding a lifelong friend is only a conversation away at this school.

Front Desk

The Front Desk is the ultimate resource for information related to the school. The front desk contains key pieces to running the school. Its first piece is Michelle Alderete, who runs the front desk and is always willing to answer questions. She is also very inviting, making it easy to approach her. The desk itself is similar, it invites you in with a polished marble tabletop and patterned wood sides.

Around the front desk is 1 printer, 1 copier, 1 fax machine, the lost and found, 2 TV's, a teachers lounge and a computer. In the teacher's lounge are two more copiers and a coffee machine. Students go to the front desk to find out about events or to use the printer or copier. Teachers attend to the front desk to find out about scheduling, plan an event, or use its many resources. Visitors check in with the front desk to meet up, and get a tour. The front desk is the center of everything at the school, and an irreplaceable data bank to the school.

See also: Michelle

G

Gardens

There are gardens in each hall. In total we have three gardens, but even though they are all the same size, they are very different. The one that has the most activity is the junior wing garden. It looks smaller than the other ones because there is a lot of variety in it. It contains the Hydroponics System, The Aquaponics Cycle, The Worm Farm, and the two chickens that we own. In this garden we also grow edible veggies, like peppers, strawberries, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes and cabbage.

Gchat

Every student has a High Tech Gmail. Within the Gmail there is an application that allows you to chat with other people. Students tend to use it a lot to chat with their friends while they are supposed to be working. Teachers get mad and ask students to not use it. It's actually as if students were using their phones to text, students close their screen or change tab so teachers can't see they were chatting. Gchat can be useful when students need to ask a teacher something and the teacher hasn't received the student's email.

Girls Varsity Soccer

Want to have a fun year at school? Well, it is a great experience to take part in a school team as a soccer athlete. As a novice and barely starting to play the sport, try joining the JV team. More experienced and want a challenge? The Varsity team is a great choice as well. Coaches Jose Roldan and

Valerie Root have led the team to CIF playoffs and a league championship for the past 3 consecutive years.

Soccer is a winter sport, so do not be surprised while playing in 55 degree weather. It's a rough and tough sport and meant only for those select, talented players that have the determination, love, and passion for soccer. The girls become a close family and are there for each other on and off the field. The athletes play against schools around the South Bay area like Preuss, Mar Vista, HTH Point Loma, etc. The team consists of freshman through seniors and our school is looking for a great team to carry the torch for years to come!

See also: CrASH

Glass

When someone says glass one of the things that come to mind are museum exhibits. Artifacts or models displayed behind centimeters of clean glass to keep the sticky fingered adolescents from touching such priceless objects. Trapped behind something that doesn't even seem to be there, we are kept away from learning their secrets.

Fortunately for our classrooms the glass windows that run from floor to ceiling only serve as an invitation for our curious visitors, may they be the children who come to learn from the primary school next dorm or visitors from a distant country. These visitors range from professionals to tourists, asking about how we like the school. It's almost similar to being able to reanimate the mannequins of Alexander the Great, or Theodore Roosevelt to ask him if they feel comfortable residing in the Smithsonian. But let's place these revealing windows in a traditional high school setting. Lets say for example, a U.S. History class. We would

see a lecture or maybe students with their textbooks outlining a few chapters. But at our school you might see a reenactment of the Vietnam war protests, maybe even students painting pieces about what they learned reading about the American Revolution.

These windows complete our school because our school demands to be observed. We want to show you how we learn about history, or math, or biology in non-traditional ways, and doing that without these windows would be a very difficult task to pull off.

See also: Windows

Grants

Not everything is free. In order to give students the opportunities to succeed in furthering their education, it takes a lot of money. The 21 Century Grant is the grant that funds our before, during, and after school programs. This grant is what allows tutors to be given stipends and to keep our after school programs (CRASH) free for families who struggle financially.

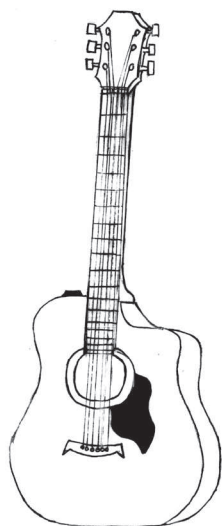
Graphic Novel Project

The Graphic Novel Project (GNP) was an after school club that lasted from 2009 - 2012. The project was first started to prove that high schools students could create comics at a professional level. The work was never for a grade, but simply out love for what work they did. However, the project became more than just a club when students realized they were following their passion, and brought a new level of motivation to the project. That dedication lead to awards and the opportunity to present at conventions all over the country. The project was ended at the end of the

2011/2012 school year with agreement from the entire class: the Graphic Novel Project had accomplished its goal and the students had taken away everything they could from it.

Green Field

The different “kidney” shape brings students together due to its asymmetry. Students do not feel restricted to using a certain part of the field because it is all different. It has three entrances that connect to the rest of the school: the amphitheatre, the staircase, and the walkway. All the entrances are different from each other, but all the paths lead to the same place where the whole school can be together. The field is an enjoyable place to lie down and eat because it is made from artificial grass. It does not require high maintenance and few bugs roam there. The school holds events, such as teacher vs. student games, musical performances, and graduation. The middle and elementary school students share the field during lunch, when all the grades come together and enjoy the day outside of class. This is the first field that brought a sense of community to the school.



Guitars

In the CrASH office, there are 4 acoustic guitars that are available for use by students throughout the day. After years of heavy use almost every day, they are covered in nicks and scratches the are the result of being laid down or bumping into things. The strings are almost never changed and the rust can be felt on them while playing. Regardless, they still sound brand new. Even

though the guitars are only about \$100 dollars, every student who plays them treats them with love.

See also: Music

H

Habits of Heart and Mind

Habits are routine behaviors done on a regular basis. HTHCV implements seven Habits of the Heart and Mind. These are: refinement, evidence, mindfulness, perspective, perseverance, cooperation and compassion. These habits are expressed in all courses and projects, and the values are commonly held throughout the campus. Students are taught Habits of Heart and Mind beginning freshman year, so that they can be used as guidelines to follow. Students are typically asked to reflect on these habits and how they were implemented through every project throughout the year.

Hallways

The cold concrete ground, steel, glass, and wood are the first things you notice. The sounds that surround the setting are echoes of power drills, saws, printers, and classroom voices. The eight foot wide hallway is covered with an abundance of colorful, inspirational murals with large windows that create a large light source are separated by steel frames. The murals symbolize what our school stands for and things we have learned. Everyone seems to be in the hallways, instead of in their classrooms during class time, either heading to the printer, going to ask others for project materials, or working on an exhibition in the hallways. Teacher's offices and classrooms are exposed with the large windows for outsiders to share an experience with.

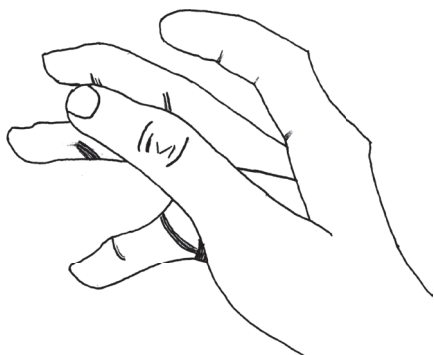
Hand Dryers

Have you ever stood in the middle of a jungle under a rain-storm when all of the sudden a tornado swoops in and sucks up all of the moisture in the air leaving nothing but a dry barren desert? Everyone who has used the bathrooms' hand dryers sure has.

See also: Bathrooms

Hands On

Being hands on is a form of learning that our school uses. Traditionally, schools teach with using textbooks, whereas students here, we learn through interaction and participation with projects such as powerpoints, murals, benches. etc. This enables students to step outside their usual thinking capacities and learn in ways that benefit them in order to further their learning skills.



See also: Project-Based Learning

HTHCV

HTHCV is an acronym that refers to High Tech High Chula Vista. It is commonly used when writing about or just mentioning the school.

Hunte Parkway

Hunte Parkway is located right in front of HTHCV. Recently, the city renovated the street by getting rid of one lane and moving the bike lane to add street parking. Since congestion has always been a problem, this change greatly reduced traffic near the school.

Hydroponics

The Hydroponics System is a method to grow plants with nothing but water and nutrients, there is no need for soil and its “eco friendly”. The junior class decided to build a Hydroponics System in environmental science class. It was very hard to built it and to get it work correctly. After a long time lettuce was finally growing. By the time spring break came the lettuce died, and that is when the system stopped being used. Now other classes are planning on getting it to work again.

I

In-N-Out

You know what's better than a field trip? A field trip where you don't have to fill in a worksheet throughout the trip. You know what's better than that? A field trip to a fast-food restaurant. Where all other points of interest fail, In-N-Out is both the closest and best place to walk to from school, leaving us with the most shameless excuse to leave campus with a permission slip the school's ever seen. We have no business taking a class field trip to In-N-Out, but it's nice to have one nevertheless. Since everyone in high school appears to be hungry at all times no matter what, an In-N-Out field trip is somewhat useful, at least up until the rest of the school catches wind of it, and everyone else is even hungrier than before.

Individuality

High Tech High is more than just a school. It is a place where students can be who they truly are without worrying if they dress properly, hang out with the right crowd, or don't play sports. It is a place where you learn to embrace your inner self whether you are a geek, a nerd, a jock, a cat-lover, or whatever. What matters most is being unique and learning to respect others as well.

Internships

The one thing that HTH does that other schools don't are academic internships. During junior year, everyone completes an academic internship of their choice for a month,

which is a requirement to pass the 11th grade. Internships are a great experience and an opportunity to grow as a person in general. They provide students with a taste of the real world, similar to the way HTH works. We live in the real world and prepare for it. The internships give students an idea of what a job would be like, which is great. It is an opportunity to make an impression on your mentor, but also a chance to make mistakes and learn from them. The internship experience is definitely helpful for the future.

J

Jpeg

[Jpeg] A jpeg is a file type for a digital photography. This format is preferred by students because of its compatibility and is typically requested by teachers for assignments. Using Jpegs as an universal format across the school makes communicating and sharing pictures much easier.

See also: Computers

K

Kay, Miss

Most people don't know this, but her name is actually Kirsten.

L

LAN Parties

Glorious LAN parties! A Local Area Network (LAN) party is an electronic party that uses a LAN to connect up to hundreds of people to the internet to play games. LAN parties are in demand because of the fun of holding a school wide Minecraft server, or to have a 5v5 in League of Legends and epically destroy classmates. Several games are played at the LAN party and the parties seem to grow each time. For the party, the commons are turned into a mass computer room where computer games are played. Console games are played in classrooms along the Senior and Junior hall and food is sold from the Bruin Cafe. The LAN parties last overnight, and attending students are locked in. The students are also free to bring whatever equipment they want. Normally they bring consoles, computers, controllers and their own games.

LAN parties are dying out! While the community does enjoy, and desire, LAN parties, special equipment is needed. This equipment was bought by one of the teachers (who left), and now obtaining the materials is severely limited. This teacher also led our Robotics team, who host the LAN parties, and now they are dying out too. Another requirement for a LAN party is for Dave to set up the LAN to bypass the proxy. Due to the difficult planning of the event and the other concerns addressed, the school hosted LAN parties are becoming more and more rare.

Table

Events: Movies, Wii, X-Box, Play Station 3, Sleeping, Snack Shop, Computer Room
Common Games: Amnesia, The Dark Decent, Minecraft, League of Legends, Starcraft, Team Fortress, Portal, Call of Duty, Halo, Skyrim, Mario Party, Mario Kart, Super Smash Brothers, Little Big Planet and Counter Strike.
Food: Nachos, Potato Chips, Corn Nuts, Soft Drinks, Pizza, Energy Bars and Energy Drinks.

League Of Legends (LoL)

LoL is a popular video game that has invaded the school and is highly conversed about. During indoor lunch, people will play or talk about it in a large majority of the rooms, discussing strategies and scores between each other. LoL is always seen at the school LAN Parties and friends get together and play with, or against each other in individual games. League of Legends became majorly popular as a game around December 2012, but many people from the school started earlier.

Gathering friends in LoL is easy, and due to students at the school being so close knit, they have many classmates from the school on their friends list. The game is very competitive, and students show off their skills to their friends at school gives them bragging rights. Trash talk is thrown around between students in the halls, and dramatically increased when the announcement for a LoL tournament became official. This tournament is being hosted by a group of seniors for their senior project.

See also: LAN Parties

Table: League Specific Terms and Phrases

League of Legends (LoL)	Tower Dive
Attack damage (Ad)	Ping
Ability power (Ap)	Dragon
Over Powered (OP)	Champion
Crowd Control (CC)	Leaver
Ultimate Ability (Ult)	Gank
Creep Score (Cs)	Teamfight
Tower	Influence Points (IP)
Baron	Minion
Blue Buff (Blu)	Skin
Red Buff (Red)	Bruiser
Super Minions	Mana
True Damage	Burst
Honor	Armor
Summoner Spell	Backdoor (Bd)
Magic Resist (mr)	Elo
Runes	Off Tank
Masteries	Jungle
Energy	Free Week
Freed	Riot Points (Rp)
Carry	Global
Tenacity	Dunked
Move Speed	Kit
Nexus	Inhibitor

Libraries

We do not have a formal library. No card catalogue, no rooms filled with rows and rows of books. Instead we have staff, and they maintain their own personal libraries. These libraries have anywhere from a handful of books to a hundred or so. The libraries cover a broad base from nonfiction to fiction to sci-fi and romance. The teachers read the books in their library and expand it regularly. They can suggest one to you if you feel like reading something new and talk to you about it if you ask them to. If a teacher wants a class to read something, but not everyone can get their own copy, the teachers will often find or make a .pdf of the book they want the students to read. The students can then access the .pdf through their e-mail or through the school's computer servers. From there, they can download or print it if they choose to. In this way, teachers maintain a digital library as well as a physical one. This means twice as big a selection for us to choose from.

Light

Whether it's a pale glow or a bright yellow shine, students enjoy natural sunlight every morning, keeping them up to date about what's going on outside. Although it is very rare for students to take long, tedious tests, the atmosphere is always peaceful and stress-free thanks to the soft light that comes in through the various windows in each classroom. A lot of students leave their badly lit bedrooms in the morning with one eye still closed and get to school to be rejuvenated and uplifted by the amount of energy coming through the glass. That is why, rain or shine, every morning is a bright morning at High Tech High.

See also: Glass

Lillian

Teachers and staff members equip us with every tool and opportunity to truly be the best we can be, but Lillian Hsu stands above all others. As director of HTHCV, she keeps the school running and has many responsibilities. She oversees teachers and classrooms, but she still finds the time to know every student by name. Despite her overflowing appointment book and the constant pressure of maintaining our school, she manages to find the time to stay involved with more trivial things. There is never a time that she turns away a person in need. She provides valuable counsel and truly cares that everyone is pushed towards accomplishing their goals and growing as reflective individuals. It is through her belief in us that we have confidence in ourselves. If you were to ask her, she could tell you what projects each class was working on. If you pointed one of us out, she would not only know our name, but what school activities we were involved in, and what college we wanted to go to. She is integral to the “bigger picture,” but on an individual level, she challenge us to break through. There is nobody more genuine and passionate than Lillian Hsu. Every day, she lives out the mission of what this school is.

Lisa

Need help with scholarships? Lisa can help. Want to join robotics? Lisa is the advisor for the team. Want a deep conversation about the possibilities of transhumanism within our current society? Talk to Lisa. She helps coordinate after school activities as well as managing the Chaos Vortex robotics team. She is a friendly and helpful advisor, as well as also keeping up with pop culture and is a huge trekkie and whovian. She is a lover of sci-fi, and expresses this openly. She is always there to listen when you have problems, or if you just want to talk about the possibilities of faster than light travel or holodecks.

Lunch

In N Out. Chick-Fil-A. Panda Express. Subway. There are plenty of places outside of school to go eat. Unfortunately, off campus lunch is not allowed for any of the students. Instead, students are confined to a lunch system that is as appealing as a three day old sandwich. Sadly, students are

too lazy to pack their own lunches, but too hungry to refrain from forking over \$3 for a lunch that isn't very filling or tasty. A frozen salad and processed "taco" can only go for so long. Fortunately, Pick Up Stix does come every Thursday, giving the students a little something extra to look forward to when lunchtime comes around. Allowing students to go off campus would make life a whole lot easier, but that will probably never happen.

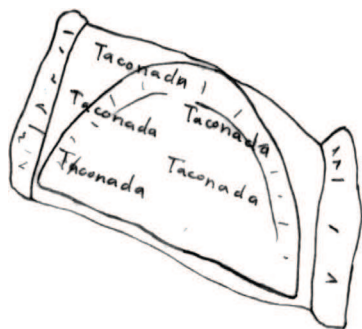


Table: Lunch Schedule

Monday	Corn	A pale hot dog wrapped with slimy corn bread
Tuesday	Taconada	Mystery meat wrapped in soggy bread
Wednesday	Bean & Cheese Burrito	Salty beans and cheese in a chewy tortilla
Thursday	Pick-Up-Stix	Chicken pieces and flavorless white rice.
Friday	Grilled Cheese Sandwich	“Cheese” inside metallic crust

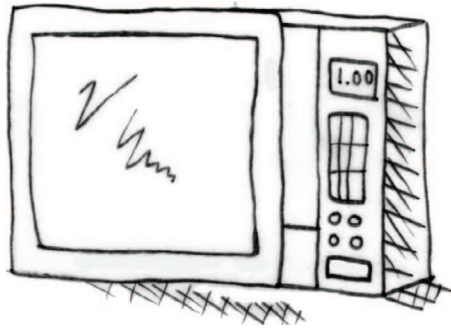
M

Michelle

If you are walking late into school, you are sure to see Michelle Alderete waiting there for you with a tardy slip. Her job as the front desk secretary includes choosing peoples classes and doing all that is needed to help this school. She handles all the parents and visitors that come to our school. She is a hard working woman who does all that she is asked of and is the mother of one current student at HTHCV and one graduate. She has been here since the school has started is a huge part of the reason why this school is still up and running. She is the only one with enough patience to handle all of the teens and their parents.

Microwaves

There are two micro-waves at the end of the hallway for student use. They are replaced every couple of months because some kid accidentally spills their Top Ramen's water on it or someone's Lean Cuisine chicken sauce explodes



inside of it. Every time something like this happens, there is always a brand new microwave waiting there sometime later that week. We are extremely lucky to have a school that forgives students for their mistakes, even when they set off the fire alarm because someone pressed the button

twice while trying to pop their popcorn. Teachers and staff tolerate these slips, spoiling students even though they secretly wonder how we will ever manage in college.

Mindfulness

A High Tech High student has to be mindful of his environment in order to persevere in high school. Mindfulness is the action of being present in body and in mind. It means to be awake and to know that what you are doing is either the correct thing to do, or the exact opposite. A student has to be able to remove himself from the equation and know that what he is doing is being constantly watched by others. Growing means that the more life changing experiences a person has, the more likely they will be able to distinguish what is truly happening in their own world.

See also: Habits of Heart and Mind

Motion-Sensor Sinks

The bathroom sinks turn on when you wave your hands in front of them. At first, they may seem pretty nifty and innovative, like a car that turns on by the press of a button, however, only a few of the sinks stay on after you wave. Everyone identifies their favorite sink, the one that stays on for the whole time you need it, so that you don't keep waving your hand around like an idiot.

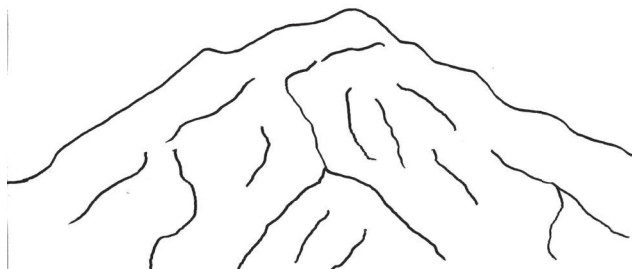
See also: Bathrooms

Mountains

Our school is built on a hill surrounded by foothills and mountains. All the south and east facing classrooms have a wonderful view of the mountains. Students sometimes go to the mountains during free time or even for class. The

mountains make the students feel relaxed because of the wonderful view that we have. In the earliest years of High Tech High, the “walk and talk” SIG would go into the canyon to enjoy a walk during their last period of their day.

See also: View, The



Music

Music is a form of art, demonstrated through sound. Music fills the hallways, and is incorporated into various Projects. It's present in senior projects, where multiple groups study, write, and record their own music. The final version of the music made for senior project can be used for various purposes: acquiring a record label, forming an album, or creating a soundtrack for a movie. The CrASH program encourages the presence of music by having an orchestra program, a Music and Production class, a Music Studio class, the CrASH office also has four guitars in their office, which students can borrow and use throughout the day.

A school talent show usually features a gymnastics routine or bad stand-up comedy, but here the whole show consists of musicians. They are up there in front of the whole

school playing covers or original songs on every kind of instrument. The audience is never disappointed with the players, as the musicians are a true part of the school.

See also: Musicians

Musicians

There is a deep-seated culture around music and musicians. From those who play casually to the more serious, a common background of music connects them all. Even though we are such a small school, musicians are everywhere, it often seems as if there are more than there should be. The ever-present guitarists, classically trained pianists, orchestral players, and aspiring DJ's are an integral part of life at the school. Music allows for an experience that lets the musicians communicate thoughts, and at the school they will take that love of music and make it a part of their school experience. Students have created projects around music whenever they can, making documentars. They take their love and make it possible to further their learning through it, something no musician at another school can say.

N

Nerdiness

Students at High Tech High have been labeled as nerds/geeks. You can see this nerdiness by what students wear or bring: Harry Potter t-shirts when it is free dress day, Doctor Who lunchboxes, anime-related stationery, you name it. It's something unique to High Tech High, that a lot of us are geeky. Everybody here, including the people that don't seem to be into that stuff, can carry on a long conversation or debate about anything labeled as nerdy. This is what sets us apart. At other schools, almost no one is interested in any of these things. Here, it feels like home, even if you are a nerd.

O

Olympics, Advisory

The Advisory Olympics is the most exciting school wide event that takes place in one day in many locations. Advisories from all over the school are pitted against each other in many different sporting events. These events test each advisory's strength and ability to work as a team. Only the best advisory gets the gold!

Top 3 Sporting Events:

Chopstick Gummy Bears – In this intense event, players line up alongside a table with chopsticks in their hands. In front of each player, there is a cup on the table. On the ends of the table lie two plates: one filled with gummy bears and one empty. Players must use chopsticks to place the gummies in the cup of the person next to them. But they have to be careful! One misstep could cause the player to drop the gummy, and therefore denying them points! The team with the most gummy bears on their plate on the end, wins.

Sit Down Volleyball – Just plain and simple volleyball... while sitting down. This game takes place inside two classrooms with two tables in the middle. Players must sit down on opposing sides, and use teamwork to hit the volleyball over the tables to the other side. Each team has three attempts to hit it over the net, and each player can't hit it two times in succession. The team with the most teamwork or a really good volleyball player up front wins.

Word Games – Do you think that Olympics only test your physical strength? WRONG! In the Advisory Olympics, advisors are put to their mental test through word games. The two most played word games are Taboo and Catch Phrase. In Taboo you guess a word, in catch phrase you have to guess a catch phrase. Whether it's one game or another, you really have to know your words. Only the brainiest team with wide vocabulary wins.

Final Event:

Dodgeball – If there happens to be a tie in the Advisory Olympics, there's only one way to settle it: dodgeball! Players must throw bouncy balls at the opposing players to tag them out. If they catch the ball, the player who threw it is out. The last team standing is crowned the victor of the Advisory Olympics.

Table: List of Advisory Olympics Winners

2007-2008	Rod Squad (Adv – Rod Buenviajes)
2008-2009	Achille's picked a chile and then he drew an egg [APACATHDAE](Adv – Kay Flewelling)
2009-2010	Cereal Killers (Adv – Cesar Guerrero)
2010-2011	Rod Squad (Adv – Rod Buenviajes)
2011-2012	Rod Squad (Adv – Rod Buenviajes)
2012-2013	Britt's Brutes (Adv – Britt Shirk)

See also: Four Years Together (Advisory)

Opportunities

Students are set up with numerous opportunities that put them on the road to success: internships, high college acceptance rates, and life long skills.



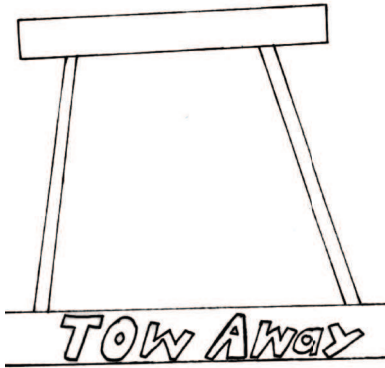
Organization

This school defies organization. Mothers complain about not being updated on school events. Teacher's offices may be inside the classroom or two hallways down from the classroom. There is no intercom that announces morning announcements. Papers float around with no obvious owner. Students constantly fill the halls. Some days, you walk into a classroom and students are slacking off listening to music, while others are half heartedly working. Other days, you step out of the classroom for a mere ten minutes and while you were gone, it is transformed into a project exhibition. Although this sounds like a negative aspect of the school, it is not. Lack of organization allows for flexibility and freedom to pave your own path. Students need a bit of disorganization to be able to grow and discover what works best with them. What better way to be prepared for a future outside of high school than learning to create your own organization?

Outdoor Amphitheatre

Auditoriums are overrated. On the south side of campus, giant rows of concrete seats face the natural landscapes outside of the school, providing a space for students to eat and enjoy their meals during lunch. When the amphitheatre was built, it created a sense of togetherness because more school events took place, such as musical performances and talent shows. Without the amphitheatre, the school would not have the unity it has now.

P



Parking Lot

The school's parking lot is the port of entry to the school. There's parking on the north and west side of the school. To park at the school, students need to have a parking permit, which can be acquired by taking specific driving classes. If students don't have a parking pass, they may park in the limited visitors parking, or on the hill just north of the school. To encourage clean and renewable forms of transportation, HTHCV has parking spaces specifically for hybrids and electric cars.

P.E.

There are people who like to run and get active and there are people who don't. There are people who naturally like to sweat bullets while running a mile around a football field and enjoy the feeling of getting graded while doing situps and pushups in front of the class, while again, some don't. There is nothing wrong with being active and feeling comfortable in a class, however P.E is not for everyone. Our school does not offer physical education as a class and whether a student likes it or not is clearly up to them. The fear of being the last person to get chosen by the team captain during P.E class or to feel like you're going to faint before the last lap to complete the mile under six minutes

does not exist in this school. The only way to be active here is to take part in an after school programs like sports, which our school does offer.

Peace Leadership League

Peace is powerful. It creates an environment where all people are accepting of one another. In some public high schools, people are teased, neglected, and hit. Here, rather than fight because we are different, we stand together as individuals with the common value of being unique.



The Peace Leadership League was planted into the school by students and for students. It was watered and nurtured by students, and now they are sowing the seeds of peace into the lives of individuals. Brooke Gonzales and Ted Cuevas supervise the student-led club and endow PLL members with a vision for peace. With hard work and dedication, the PLL makes a difference through Peace Weeks and Anti-Bullying Days.

Perseverance

A persevering person can go very far in life. People that try their best without ever giving up are the ones who are most likely to succeed. Successful people tend to have this habit as one of their strongest. It's all about trying your best even if someone tells you that you probably won't be able to do. It's all in trying so hard to prove that you really can, even if you don't win a competition or you don't get an A+ on that

test. It's knowing that you never gave up and you tried really hard to get to where you are. You also know that next time you can do better because you know that nothing is impossible if you are determined and you persevere. Perseverance is one of the most important things a teacher can teach you. Luckily, perseverance is taught the classrooms every day.

See also: Habits of Heart and Mind

Perseverance, Recipe for

Serves 150 ninth graders

Ingredients:

2 lbs. dedication
¼ cup of desire
½ cup of heart
1 tbsp. of motivation
mentoring to taste
failure

Directions:

- 1) Spread dedication evenly across the school year.
- 2) In a project-based learning environment, add desire, heart, and motivation. Mix thoroughly.
- 3) Sprinkle with mentoring and stir vigorously.
- 4) Bake in the oven of your projects at 450 degrees. (Don't forget to take out a few times for mentoring.)
- 5) Add a dash of failure while baking to ensure that you will rise to the occasion.

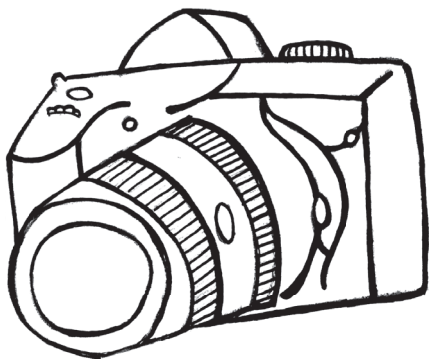
Personal

The best kind of feelings to hurt. 'Personal' is an illusion. If it is kept only to yourself, it doesn't exist. If others know about it, then it could not be personal. You may hug your cat, keeping it wrapped tightly around your arms, but it isn't your own personal cat. Even if you own it, feed it, or take it out for a walk, it CAN leave you. Personal is a buzzword. Personality is an archetype. Person is a mindset. This individualistic way of seeing things is only to make ourselves feel of worth.

Every person here strives for some sort of success. No matter how determined or lazy a person can be, they have a goal. This goal is their ambition and their drive for the time being. 'Personal' can be used to describe a feeling toward a project or motivation, but this community is too small for a truly personal existence, and that is why most people find this place so exciting in the first place. Only in this densely connected community can we really find what in us is truly personal.

Personalization

Teachers get called by their first name because in classrooms they want to be equal with students. Teachers at HTHCV are different and pay close attention to their students because they care. All students have weaknesses when it comes to school. Teachers help student gets better. It's easy to communicate with one another. For example, students tell random jokes in class and teachers don't mind. The classroom environment is fun, free, and safe place to learn. Teachers teach us confidence, listening skills, and leadership. This helps each students in the future to grow and become adults.



Photoshop

Photoshop is a computer program that is used to edit photos or create ads for class assignments. Here, students learn the basics of Photoshop. Some students enjoy using Photoshop to create animated drawings, while others use it as a tool to make photo collages.

Using Photoshop takes a lot of patience and requires a positive attitude.

Ping Pong

There are two ping pong tables for the students to use. The ping pong tables are available for after school activities. Students can play while they wait for their rides to pick them up. This is a great way to keep the students safe while they wait, because there is always a staff member supervising the students.

Places

To Do Homework

- Grass Field
- CRASH room
- Amphitheater

To Have Lunch

- Outside tables
- Basketball court
- Grass Field
- Teacher's rooms

To Avoid Working

- Hallways
- Bathrooms
- Outdoors
- Couches
- The Dave Cave
- Rah-Ben's Lair
- So basically anywhere they can get away with it (though that's a given).

Pods

Instead of students seeing a different group of people every period, students are organized into “pods”. Students in a pod have the same schedule, which helps them get to know their classmates really well. They know who the gamers, the clowns, and the skaters are. We understand each other. At this level of understanding, students work really well together. No one is afraid to be criticized for their opinion during a project or discussion. The students are shuffled into new groups every year, but pods work with each other on assignments and projects very often. By the time a class reaches senior year, they all know each other by name and have worked with almost everyone on a project. Because they know who is really good at math and who loves studying history, they can always find help with an assignment. By working in pods, students create sensational final products that they can be proud of.

POL

When students hear the word “POL” most think of stress. When outsiders hear “POL” they have a blank face and look confused. POL stands for Presentation Of Learning. A POL is not graded, but pass or fail. Students may redo their POL in order to pass.

A POL is during the last week of the first semester. Students present the work they have done during the first semester and show what they have learned and demonstrate, show etc that they are ready for the second semester. The teacher decides the topic and length requirement for the presentation. Most teachers want the presentation to be at least five minutes long. One can imagine how stressful might be on a student. Presenting is not an easy thing to do. Students have to know what they are going to say, address questions about and make sure that their presentation is long enough. Preparing for a POL is the most stressful part of it all. Teachers usually give students a week to prepare and practice their presentation if they needed to. POL's are big deal here and are very stressful for students

POL Attire

POL attire means that students need to wear professional dress. Guys are expected to wear nice dress shirts and pants. Girls usually wear a dress shirt and slacks or an appropriate skirt or dress. Although POL attire sounds like it is only worn during POL's, it



is actually worn during college fairs, exhibitions, and any professional presentation. Having everyone dressed in POL attire makes students feel like professional adults that are ready to take on any challenge. It is quite a sight to see the whole school dressed in POL attire on exhibition night and POL week.

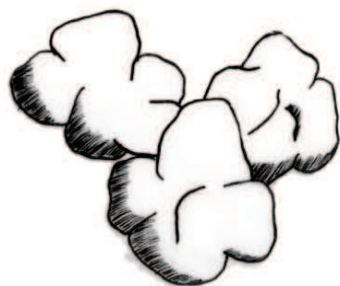
Potlucks

Potlucks are an often occurrence, because they are a cheap way for a class to have a party. Since everyone only has to

pay for or make one dish the expense is divided between students. Those who choose to make their dish may find a perfect place to have their cooking prowess judged. If the food is gone by the end of the potluck it was a hit! If the food is still there, the dish may need work. After all the dishes have been brought to class, the students then proceed to nosh on various dishes and watch some form of PG-13 Movie or play games via board games or computer. All in all it's a great bonding opportunity for students and teachers as opposed to focusing on teaching. The teacher can get to know more about the student and vice versa. On the other hand students get to enjoy the company of other students and also learn more about their teacher. As a result, stronger bonds form within the class.

Popcorn

Whether its coming back from lunch or taking a break from class, the dense smell of popcorn fills our school. When



coming out of class, you are hit with a wall of popcorn scent so strong that everyone in the hall begins to say, "It smells like popcorn." Students bring popcorn from home and make it in the microwaves placed in the hall for student use. This is a tradition that has been here for a long time

and will continue through the classes to come.

Power Tools

When freshmen start the year, they lose the feeling of being the "coolest" like they did in middle school. Weeks later, after they learning some topics and begin working with projects, they are all taught how to use power tools. At first, it

feels really risky to work with power tools, since freshmen believe that they are way too young to use power tools and those tools should instead be handled by older people. Once presented with the tools, an excitement for creating and building they never thought they would have at a young age. After a supervisor teaches them how to use the power tools the proper way, freshman become more confident of using power tools. After freshman year, students continually use power tools for their four years in high school for projects and repairs. Students have to be really careful in case they don't want to lose their privileges of using the power tools.

Commonly Used Power Tools:

- Circular Saw- Makes long cuts.
- Jigsaw - Saw that cuts wood into shapes, easy to move with hand.
- Orbit Sander - Used to sand wood and to makes perfect angles helps refine details before painting.
- Speed Drill Driver - Used to drill different sizes of holes, twist wires, grind metal.
- Table Saw - Used to cut large pieces of wood.

Safety Supplies

- Goggles
- Gloves
- Mask
- Protective ear muffs



Preparation

The school doesn't just teach us, it prepares us for the outside world. Many people graduate from high school and have no idea where to go from there. Here, students are taught to excel not just as students, but as contributing members of society. Students develop interpersonal and public speaking skills, as well as how to write a formal report or business proposal at a professional level. Students can create a resume, rock an interview, build a bridge that supports much more than its own weight, paint a mural and so much more. When students apply for college, they are fine because they already have plenty of experience filling out applications and writing essays. After all, they have done it a million times. Students don't just learn about Shakespeare and Pythagoras, we learn about practice, presentation, and professionalism.

Progress

Freedom and Progress are two words that are easily relatable to us. Research for projects would be difficult if we were constrained to certain websites or sources. If the art we did had strict guidelines, then we wouldn't be free to express our abilities as artists. Freedom and progress go hand in hand here at this school because we are free spirited students who came here to seek refuge from the shackles of ordinary public school.

See also: Freedom

Project Based Learning

Whether it's a seminar or gallery walk in our humanities class, a hike up to mountains, an art project in math class, or being student engineers, whatever the occasion a simple textbook never seems to do the job. Project based learning is all about hands on, learn by doing, and getting real

experience. From taking on big design roles for the development of building roller coasters, haunted houses, museum art pieces, or taking on architecture roles to design houses for architects, learning through experience is key at HTHCV. Whatever topic we are learning in class, the simplicity of a lecture won't cut it. Projects motivate students to put creativity to use, making academic learning an exciting experience.

Public Speaking

Public speaking is perhaps the most useful skill taught at High Tech High. Starting in freshman year, students learn to be comfortable with public speaking. During the first POL, teachers help students put their fears aside and talk professionally. Because it is essential for students to excel at public speaking, they practice it daily through socratic seminars and mini presentations. Chances are that students will find themselves public speaking in more places than their POL. By senior year, they feel so comfortable with public speaking and have gone through so many different experiences, that it is as though talking in front of people is their hidden talent. Whether it is formal speaking like in POL's, talking to adults, or simply presenting ideas in front of the class, public speaking plays a significant role in the everyday life of a student.

See also: POL

Q

Quiet

Quiet spaces are both coveted and elusive.

R

Rah-Ben

Rah-Ben Coates is someone students should try to befriend during their Junior and Senior years. Why? He is none other than High Tech High Chula Vista's College Advisor. With an arsenal of information at hand in relation to the college application process, he's an important tool and asset to those applying to universities.



Characterized by his tall stature and the seemingly never-ending supply of collegiate apparel, Mr. Coates is easy to spot amongst the other faculty members. Let it be known that he is often very busy trying to deal with many students bombarding him with questions or out of sheer boredom. So do not fear, he'll get things done in time with reminders.

If you're not pressed about the topic of college, Rah-Ben can prove himself to be quite the character. He's a fun-loving guy who can be found participating in most, if not all school events. It's impossible not to mention his plethora of hilarious stories or even his 2Chainz impressions.

Rainy Days

The days that rain usually go by slow and mellow. Most of the time, rainy days are distracting, but nonetheless beautiful. Due to the glass walls and the huge windows in the classrooms, students have a clear view to the outside where they can see the drops of rain fall. Even after having seen it multiple times over the years, the rainy days always steal our attention away from school.

Ray

Ray is the Dean at our school, and he doesn't tolerate delinquent behavior. If you're on his hit list, you can be sure to face extreme consequences. He strikes fear into the hearts of students, yet brings peace and order to the school. This peace can only be obtained because of the rules that Ray has set.

Ray has a decree of rules that cannot be violated. Ray gives generous leniency for the first or second time. Penalties are issued for the third offense. Repeated offenders may have their parents contacted or even be expelled.

Table

Offense	Consequences
Gum Chewing	Scraping Gum
Out of Dress Code	School Uniform for a Week
Late for Class	*Impetuous yelling
Littering	Immediate Trash Removal in the Vicinity
**Ditching	Ray's Office

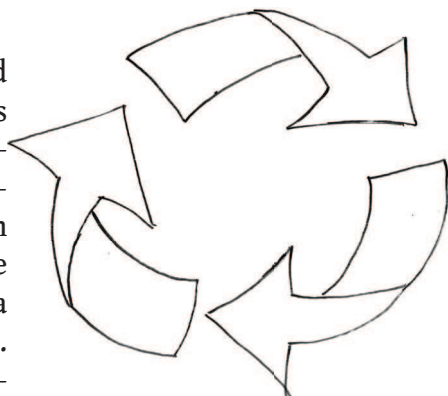
*What's scarier than yelling? Ray yelling.

**Exception: Senior Ditch Day

“Actually, he’s a pretty nice guy” – Anonymous Student

Recycling

Recycle bins are placed up and down the hallways and inside every classroom. Their colors of royal blue and vibrant green are what we gravitate towards when we have a disposable water bottle. When dealing with projects, instead of buying



new materials, we try to use or find recyclable alternatives to it, such as recyclable bottles to create art sculptures.

Refinement

Refine! Refine! Refine! We are always refining. Refinement is the process of improving a pre-existing piece and is one of the 7 habits of heart and mind. HTH believes anything can be refined, and there is no end to how far you can improve something, only how far you want to take it. For example, a teacher may have students refine the final drafts of an essay. While this is silly, it does show that there is no end to refinement. In the process of writing, sketching or calculating, students will stop to refine several times.

“We focus on refining our projects instead of doing several small ones. We do this because refinement is the way to

make anything better, and that's what we want students to practice" - Anonymous Teacher

See also: Habits of Heart and Mind

Reflection

"You know you go to High Tech High when you reflect more than mirrors." At no other school would a student reflect on their ability to reflect. After the completion of any project, test, or large assignment, students reflect on it. Why do we do this? Reflecting is the most important factor that sets homo-sapiens apart from any other living creature on the planet. (Some may argue it is the opposable thumb, but that is besides the point). Reflecting allows a person to look over the work they have completed, and be honest to themselves about how they have grown after completing it, or how they could have improved had any circumstance been different. Students reflect to expand as an individual based on the knowledge they continuously gain.

Robotics

Robotics was founded by students, with the help of Mr. Wagner, a freshman math teacher in 2008. In the first year of robotics, students learn how to program robots and how to design them. From this moment on, you will belong to robotics. Robotics is a great thing to have on your application for colleges, and it is a great tool for life if you know how to take advantage of it. Robotics can teach you how to be responsible, because the after school program is ran by students. The team uses fundraisers to get all of their money and pay for the robots. Robotics participates in Vex robotics which is a middle school and high school students competition. Vex robotics is most known for being a safe and competitive environment to participate in. FRC is the

other competition that our team participates in. Both Vex and FRC are very important, but FRC is the big leagues. FRC is the type of competition where the team spends around \$20,000 on the robot and then travels to the place where the competition is being held.

See also: CrASH

S

School Fundraisers

School Fundraisers usually consist of a hastily constructed booth set up to sell baked goods or chips and candy bars. Every once in awhile there is a booth that will sell nachos smothered in a cheap cheese sauce and bombarded with pickled jalapenos or tacos topped with shredded cabbage, onions, and lime. Although these booths may be ruggedly set up, it is a statement to the freedom that flows through our halls. We do not have to bind ourselves into some petty bureaucratic system that takes months for a booth to be approved. In a way we have a beautiful system of raising funds in our school, it lacks a set protocol for fundraising. If your group needs money you can just go out and raise it.

Sean Fuchs Memorial

As you walk into the school, you see a mural on the outside of the senior wing, a memorial to Sean Fuchs (1996 - 2011), who passed away at the end of his freshman year. Students and teachers acknowledged that he was different from the rest, creating the mural because he was the epitome of what a HTHCV student should be: hardworking and always open to new ideas, never taking himself too seriously, dedicating himself to whatever he worked on, joining different after school clubs, always putting his whole heart into everything. Creating the mural was special too; whether it was designing it or just coming in for an hour to help paint, the entire school helped to get it done. That's why the mural was put up, not just to remember him, but to set an example for the future of the school, reminding us that even though Sean has left us he still lives on in the ideals of the mural.

Senioritis

Senioritis is a “disease” seniors get when they feel like they’ve already graduated High School. The first symptom of senioritis is when you don’t feel obligated to do all of your homework. Seniors grades gradually start to go down before they even notice. The second symptom of senioritis is when seniors start to miss school consistently. Students feel that school isn’t that important anymore because they are so close to graduating. The third symptom of senioritis is the realization phase. Seniors look at their grades and realize that they’re failing most of their classes. The students start to get in trouble with their parents and teachers. The cure for senioritis is to sit down and do your work before it’s too late. Some seniors get lucky and barely pass, but others aren’t so lucky.

Senior Project

Could you ever imagine an 18 year old creating a real business, art gallery, or an original album? At this school, it is real. Every year, the teachers assign a project for seniors that allows them to show all their hard work. Seniors choose their project based on their interest in subjects: business, music, art, engineering, writing, and film. One of the main requirements for this project is for students to reach out of the school and into the community. To show the work, growth, and new knowledge learned, each student must have a conference with their teacher. At the end of the year, students exhibit their work and it is expected that it be of the highest quality to pass their senior project and graduate.

Senior Cohorts:

Art & Business

Community

Engineering

Film and Performing Arts

Health

Writing

Shoes

There is one thing that only a fraction of the students at High Tech High can relate to: having the freedom to wear Converse or Vans. This is still a new concept to an incoming freshman coming from a strict Roman Catholic middle school. So while a lot of students complain about the fact that (according to the dress code) we aren't allowed to wear sandals to school, some of us are extremely content with being able to wear comfortable Chucks instead of ill-fitting black shoes that squeak at every step.

See also: Dress Code

SLC

At a traditional school conferences are usually given by the teacher but here we do things differently, students lead the conferences these are called student lead conferences (SLC). These conferences happen two times every year. Students bring in their parents and give them a conference on how things are going at school. Some students really enjoy SLC's because its a way for parents to get involved in their school work, while others who are doing terrible in school wouldn't want to share that with their parents. SLC's help students realize what the problem is by reflecting while speaking to their parents, this way the student knows what to work on for next semester or next year.

Soapy Hands

If you see a student walking around with soapy hands, then you know they have used the bathroom sinks.

See also: Motion-Sensor Sinks

Solar Energy

Our power comes from outside the box, so too must our ideas. Running a school takes up a lot of power. In response, our roof is covered in solar panels that cover the outside of our high tech box and help regulate energy levels in the school. In tenth grade, sophomores are introduced to the idea of renewable energy and told about these mirrors that capture the sun. Students discuss the importance of renewable energy in the present day and are given the task of powering an LED light through renewable energy. Wind tunnels, solar cells, and tesla coils line the classroom making our walls glow. We aren't just lucky enough to have solar power, we are extraordinary enough to understand it.

Solar Panels

HTHCV is considered one of the most environmentally friendly schools in the United States. It was given a Gold level rating by the U.S. Green Building Council LEED for Schools, which is the greenest rating possible. One thing that makes HTHCV so environmentally friendly is the solar paneling on the roof. HTHCV does this by allowing SDGE to "rent" the roof tops of the school and place the solar panels. This way, HTHCV gets enough solar energy to sustain 70% of their energy consumption.

See also: Campus

Spanish

You can hear students speaking Spanish pretty much any time, during passing periods, over lunch, or when explaining a difficult problem. Even though not all of the student body speaks the language, no one is left out. Rather, in Spanish class, students and teachers come together to work on projects with the shared bond of one language. Students get to experience the food and the rich culture, but most of all to understand different people and broaden their perspective on life.

Spirit Week

Crazy hats everywhere, matching outfits, and rainbow hair, that's just spirit week at HTHCV. Spirit Week is a time to promote school spirit, unify the student body, and make



fun memories that students and teachers will cherish for a lifetime. ASB plans spirit week once a semester and assigns a theme for each day of the week. Twin day, sports day, Disney day, Bruin day, nerd day, pajama day and even mustache day are some themes for

our spirit week. All students and even teachers participate, which makes the students enthusiastic and supportive of the school.

Sports

Kiss a football scholarship goodbye, because you won't get that here. Kids don't really care too much about sports at school unlike the other big public schools around us. The excitement of prep rallies during the day and the majority of the students getting pumped up for the game isn't something you'll find here. The hope for a football

team and playing under the Friday night lights isn't really an option.

Teachers don't put a big emphasis on sports, but there are students athletes who are passionate about what they play. These athletes do not let competing in Division V doesn't discourage them from putting in the extra effort to showcase their skills and become league MVP's. Although the sports programs are not the best, the athletes' relationship with their teammates and coaches are similar to a family, creating lifelong friends through the bond of sports.

Student Ambassador

Student ambassadors know the school better than anybody else. They constantly give tours, conduct informational meetings, and are an important voice when hiring new teachers. Student ambassadors must engage their audience while speaking, know key facts about the school, and be able to walk backwards without tripping. A student ambassador is a very organized and dedicated student who can afford to miss class time for tours and info sessions and give up their lunch time for meetings. Being an ambassador has its perks too, such as complimentary lunches, and a close relationship with Michelle, the head of student ambassador program. The main highlight of the program is its link to the outer world. Student ambassadors meet international visitors and get to know them; clever students exchange contact information as a future network option. For student ambassadors, the world is at their fingertips.

Summer Bridge

During the summer towards the end of break, the school offers a program called Summer Bridge. Returning students volunteer to be part of the program to help new ninth

grade students get acquainted with the school. Before the program starts the bridge leaders have one week of training to get ready for the incoming students. Leaders have to call the students they will have in their group, learn the games they will play with the incoming students, and come up with other activities they can do with the ninth grade students. After that one week of training, the second week consists of working with the incoming students who signed up for the program. All the games that the leaders learned now have to be taught to their group of new students. Throughout that week they also have a small little project that they need to complete to present to their parents at the end of the week. It really is a good experience and future incoming students are encouraged to join the program and students who go here already to become leaders.

T

Technology

Rarely will you walk into a classroom without a student working on a computer. We embrace this and have made it part of our curriculum and culture. Each class provides



around thirty laptops per class, cameras/other filming equipment, computer labs, and the latest in Adobe and Microsoft programs. Students take advantage of multimedia and computer art classes, ensuring basic comprehension in these fields. Unlike most schools, work can be turned in online via google documents. This makes it easier to edit, collaborate, and grade work. Technology is what puts the “High Tech” in High Tech High.

See also: Computers

Textbooks

Our school does not learn through textbooks. Teachers give lessons through presentations, projects, and discussions. Every student has access to a laptop where he or she can do their work, do research, and catch up on their Gmail account. High Tech High’s teaching philosophy is different from most. The fact that no one opens a page of a textbook at this school, can be quite shocking at times. The pros of having



no textbooks are that students don't have to carry around heavy books all day from class to class, but the cons are that some students just learn faster through them.

See also: Project Based Learning

TIOL

TIOL stands for Transitional Interview Of Learning. A TIOL is a much bigger event than a POL. They happen at the end of the school year and this time you don't have to present, but get interviewed by your teachers. In this interview there are lots of things that get asked. They ask you how you've changed from first semester to second semester, certain work you have done throughout the school year, and they ask you questions about how will you be prepared for the next grade level. This part of a TIOL (the actual interview) is the most calm part and it just feels like the student is having a conversation with their teachers.

The most stressful and intense part is the preparation for a TIOL. Once again depending on the teacher(s) is what you need to do for the TIOL. Some examples of what teachers have done in the past for preparation is to make a resume and write an essay about the class. TIOL's seem like a lot of stress, but can be fun and worth it at the end.

See also: POL

Togetherness

We are drifting through school like water in a river. Sometimes we get thrown against rocks and we get pulled under, struggling to survive and remain afloat. We are only a single drop of water in this rampant flood. We are individuals who are capable of only understanding ourselves. Yet, as we grow and experience high school together, we become more and more bonded with each other. In life, we are alone, but the way we connect and share ourselves with others lead

us to be not so much alone, but rather very much together. Being together is a core value. While not its own Habit of Heart and Mind, it closely ties in with each Habit. By being together, we are able to uphold the values of Compassion, Cooperation, Mindfulness, Perseverance, Perspective, Refinement, and Evidence. These common values unite students and teachers alike. We will succeed together and sometimes we will fail together too, but that's what High Tech High is all about.

Tutors

At other schools, tutors are only available at a certain time during the whole school day. At those schools, the students have to go to a tutoring class where they only get help on one subject . Here, students see tutors walking around the school all the time. When students need support, they can walk up to any of the tutors and ask for help. Students don't have to feel that they have to watch what they say as if they are talking to a teacher at another school. Tutors at High Tech High are not just tutors, they are also friends.

U

Underclassmen

It's hard to believe that there was a point in our lives when we were freshmen.

V

Vernon

Mr. Vernon is the best teacher in High Tech High. Unlike his peers, Vernon possesses a swag that no other teach' can touch. He fought in all four World Wars, the Zombie Apocalypse, and the Taco Holocaust, combined.

Mr. Vernon's earthly form is proof that God did not create us equal. If you do so much as smile in his general direction, he'll turn around and smile back with a stare so mighty it will send you straight into shock and erase the last couple moments of memory. Hell, even the poor soul who took this picture still has at least eight months left to go in the hospital.



View, The

Other schools feel so closed off, you walk out of class and the other buildings had fences block you off from the real world. High Tech High is built in such a way so that you feel like you're in an open space. The hills bob and weave around the school and create a strong contrast between the land and the sky. Visitors come to this beautiful venue and feel welcomed by massive fields that have nothing save a

few fence posts and service roads. When you take a breather from being inside you literally forget for a few seconds about class and you come back ready to work at a much better capacity. The symbiotic relationship between the view and the architecture of the school make it so that you never forget your visit.

W

Weird

Weird usually means outside of the norm, But what happens when you are surrounded by it for four years? Usually high school is “dog eat dog” but here its so welcoming, everyone wants to know everyone. Next is the teachers, the whole getting to know you and the first name basis is weird, usually teachers are there to make sure you’re doing work and that you’re learning the standards, but here they make the effort to get to know what you want to do with life and what’s going on outside of school. The weirdest part beyond anything though is the students, you see kids who are so open about what they’re passionate about and no one is ashamed about it. There’s sports captains who also love robotics and the academic kids play soccer during lunch. Most people would call us weird but we’re just outside of the norm, in the best way possible.

Whiteboards

Whiteboards are a useful way to express information. We use them often and they are very helpful for students. Most classrooms even have whiteboard walls, which gives teachers a lot of space to draw a table or graph or write up their lessons. Whiteboards are a very helpful tool for visual learners.

Windows

Our school is surrounded by glass windows like a butterfly atrium. The wide windows make the classrooms feel more open. They help give a feeling of open mindedness. The windows influence students to feel comfortable with being creative and outgoing, like butterflies after metamorphosis.

X

X-Blocks/SIGs

Students have the freedom to start after school clubs (known as X-Blocks/SIGs) that they think the school needs. X-Blocks are the clubs related to sports, while SIGs, short for Student Interest Groups, are clubs related to art, writing, and music or any other topic. There is even a club devoted to paranormal activity! These clubs used to be during the school day, but they were moved to after school to make way for elective classes.. Students miss having clubs meet

See also: Clubs

Y

You

Perhaps you came because you were curious; you heard from _____ about the amazing _____ and had to see it for yourself. Maybe you took a tour from an ambassador, visited a classroom, or, better yet, interviewed a student. You admired the art on the walls, gazed at the view of the hills, and wandered through the garden.

But did you see what was really happening?

Can we really capture everything in this book?

I doodled in my notes. I spilled paint on the floor. I laughed with my mouth wide open and my eyes pointed at the sky. I smiled at a classmate in the hallway, the one who never raises her hand in class. I dried my hands on my pants. I drew a smiley face on the sidewalk as bright as the sun. I hugged a teacher. I said “Thank You.” I paused to listen to music streaming down the hallway. I wrapped my arms around my friend’s shoulder as tears streamed down her face. I dreamed big. I tutored a struggling student in math. I sprawled out on the grass and basked in the sunshine. I broke the dress code. I hoped to get into the college of my dreams. I ran down the hallway and jumped into my friend’s arms. I wished I wasn’t in high school. I wished I could stay seventeen forever. I loved my friends. I loved cupcakes. I screamed at the top of my lungs. I chewed gum.

Don’t be fooled by the extraordinary. You see, High Tech High is ordinary too.

Z

[The end.]

“10 out of 10” - The Washington Post

“You will pity anyone who hasn't read this book.”

“Forget best books of the year, this is one of the best all time!”

“The ending will make you shed a single, manly tear.”

“Full of Awesome Awesomeness!”

