



CLASSROOM REDESIGNED

INTRODUCING THE
NEW TECH HIGH SCHOOLS
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA





98%

of New Tech students who applied to a **postsecondary institution** were **accepted**

Communication and technology have rapidly changed the way we live and work, yet the classroom has stayed the same. New Tech believes there is a better way to learn – a way that is academically rigorous and engaging. A way that prepares high school students for the environments in which they will need to function when they pursue secondary education and enter the workforce. New Tech is redesigning the classroom, creating an immersive learning experience that propels students forward into the 21st century.

What is New Tech?

Since the first New Tech High School was created in Napa, California, in 1996, over 60 New Tech schools have sprung up across the United States. New Tech is a high school where subjects are integrated and all teaching is done in a project-based learning (PBL) format. New Tech High Schools meet or exceed state standards and have an intense focus on developing students' 21st century skills like oral and written communication, critical thinking, work ethic, collaboration, problem solving, creativity and presentation skills.

New Techs may partner with a traditional high school, operate separately in their own building, or become a district's only high school. In cases where the district maintains a traditional high school, New Techs still have their own principals, teachers, classrooms and schedule—and the way the students learn is unlike any traditional high school in the region.

New Tech in NE Indiana

Northeast Indiana is already home to several New Tech High Schools, and by 2011 our region will have the largest concentration of New Techs in the country. In this region, New Tech High Schools have a particular focus on teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), while still offering many electives, athletics and advanced placement courses.

NEW TECH HIGH SCHOOL

MYTH VS REALITY

Sometimes people are a little confused about what a New Tech High School is and what kind of students go there. Here are a few common misconceptions.

MYTH: New Tech High Schools are for people who don't plan on going to college.

REALITY: Fact is, 85% of the reported New Tech seniors applied to one or more colleges – 98% of which were accepted. Because of New Tech's academic rigor and emphasis on real world application, New Tech students graduate well-prepared to reach any goal for the future – whether that includes college or not.

MYTH: New Tech High Schools are only for really smart people.

REALITY: Students of all aptitudes attend New Tech High Schools. The academics are challenging and rigorous because they are based around applying lessons to real-world problems, not because the concepts are out of reach of most people.

MYTH: Project-based learning means students are graded in groups.

REALITY: While teamwork is a huge part of the New Tech experience, students are still graded as individuals. They are evaluated on their development of 21st century skills and take exams and quizzes to measure their progress in each subject.

MYTH: New Tech is a fad. Project-based learning (PBL) hasn't been proven to be effective.

REALITY: The Buck Institute for Education has collected four decades worth of research that shows PBL can be more effective than a traditional high school education. Evidence shows that PBL students can more effectively retain what they learn, integrate and explain concepts and achieve mastery over 21st century skills. PBL can also help students achieve higher marks on state-administered assessment tests. [Get the facts at BIE.org.](#)

MYTH: The only difference between New Tech and a traditional high school is that each student has a laptop.

REALITY: You'll notice huge differences between New Tech and a traditional school the moment you enter the door – an open environment, clusters of tables and chairs instead of rows, plenty of natural light and technology that facilitates learning. Most importantly, the way students learn is completely different from a traditional class – subjects are integrated, students work in teams and all learning is project based. The rest of this brochure provides more details about these facts.

Talent drives business, and that's what we're building here... New Tech raises the bar of student performance and educational achievement. Not everyone is going to become an engineer, but there's no reason why the bar can't be raised for everyone.

Bruce Menshy //

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,
RAYTHEON CO., FORT WAYNE



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Integrated, Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Hear lecture. Read textbook. Do homework.

Take test. Repeat. Generally speaking, this has been the way high school classes have been taught for decades, even centuries. This “traditional” teaching format works for some students, but many excel in a more immersive, interactive learning environment. And that is what New Tech High Schools are all about. Instead of going from math to English to science class – with none of them relating to one another – New Tech classes integrate all subjects into a singular, PBL experience.

Even more impressive, students learn how to work together, manage their time, draw their own conclusions regarding problems and how to present those conclusions to their classmates and teachers.

A Collaborative Environment

The typical New Tech classroom is open and airy with glass walls and natural light. You'll find students clustered in groups around tables instead of desks staunchly organized in rows. You can practically see the synapses firing as they work face-to-face, huddled around computers, working and smiling.

Culture of Trust, Respect & Responsibility

Together, New Tech students create a culture of trust, respect and responsibility. At the beginning of each school year, they develop a code of conduct for themselves and their classmates. The result? A deep respect for each other and a sense of ownership for their learning environment. High expectations for themselves and for one another. A commitment to setting goals and attaining them in a timely manner.

Integrated Technology

Technology is intrinsic to the New Tech classroom. Every student is assigned a computer for the length of the school year; they have constant access to their grades and projects and are taught to use technology to accelerate their learning. Students use the Web for research, collaborate online with their classmates and share projects and ideas. Technology becomes a powerful tool for learning, not a crutch or shortcut.



New Tech gives students a choice in their education. Instead of traditional classes, they can choose to experience an immersive, hands-on education that prepares them for virtually any career field, university or college.

Brady Mullett //

DIRECTOR, EAGLE TECH ACADEMY, COLUMBIA CITY



Taste the Real World

New Tech students learn by taking on real-world projects for companies in their local communities. Students at New Tech Academy in Fort Wayne re-designed a more cost-effective package for the local Edy's Ice Cream facility.

89%

of New Tech schools **outperformed** the **9th grade reading rates** of their comparison sites

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In Life Science and Biology,

New Tech schools outperformed comparison sites at high rates of **75%** and **69%** respectively.

At New Tech, students are engaged in solving problems and making decisions rather than just memorizing facts for a test. Students are assigned projects modeled after real-world problems and challenges. As they progress through their project, students learn the same mathematics principles, language skills, and science they would in a regular classroom, but now it's through hands-on learning. Students apply what they learn, as they learn it – helping them gain a deeper understanding of their subject, appreciate its real-world value and remember it for future application.

I want to be a surgeon. After just a year as a New Tech student, I can tell already this school is providing the right path to reach that goal.

Nate //

CLASS OF '13, NEW TECH ACADEMY, FORT WAYNE



Creativity and problem-solving are easier when you have the right environment for it. So in addition to an open, colorful workspace for the students, Viking New Tech will also expand the classroom into an outdoor courtyard for the students and teachers.

Chris Wilkins //

FACILITATOR, VIKING NEW TECH, HUNTINGTON

Focus on Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

New Tech High Schools in Northeast Indiana have a focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The problem solving, projects, and collaborations are the perfect foundation for higher education for STEM careers. Also, Northeast Indiana is a national hub for STEM careers—specifically in the medical device, advanced manufacturing and defense/aerospace industries. Students graduating from a New Tech school are poised to find high-paying, exciting jobs right here in our region.

Of course, this doesn't mean that New Tech is only for students interested in a STEM career. The robust use of technology, problem solving and teamwork found at New Tech are invaluable for every career field.

Real World Advantage

To maintain a high level of relevance, New Tech instructors partner with area businesses when

developing class projects. Students get to evaluate, research, troubleshoot and solve the same problems professionals work on. This kind of exposure to real world processes gives New Tech students a distinct advantage in choosing their career path.

For further exposure to the real world, juniors and seniors are required to hold internships—many of which might not typically be available to traditional high school students. Working side-by-side with professionals provides students an unparalleled learning experience.

New Tech High School students each have the opportunity to earn college credit, which can translate into significant savings on college tuition fees. More importantly, because of their expertise in communication, teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving, New Tech graduates enter their post-secondary education with a strong advantage over other freshmen.



New Tech is an educational experience unlike anything else available at the high school level. Northeast Indiana will soon enjoy the unique advantage of having access to more New Tech High Schools than any other part of the country – which is yet another reason that our region is poised to be a major hub for talent throughout the 21st century and beyond.

CONTACT US

Intrigued? Learn more about New Tech High Schools in Northeast Indiana at TalentMadeHere.com.

Learn about New Tech High Schools across the country at NewTechNetwork.org.



TALENT DRIVES BUSINESS

New Tech Facilitators are always looking for businesses with which to partner for class projects. Partnering with New Tech is a solid investment in the future talent of our region and your company.

Need an intern? New Tech students bring great value to your business thanks to their practical, collaborative learning.

If you'd like to take advantage of either opportunity, contact your local New Tech High School.



The New Tech High Schools of Northeast Indiana are partners with the Talent Initiative, a regional effort to increase the professional skills of our region's workforce by means of enhanced education and training.

TalentMadeHere.com