

HIGH TECH HIGH

High Tech High is considered one of the leading edge educational providers in the USA. In 2011 it was named by the UK Innovation Unit as one of the "10 Schools for the 21st Century".

High Tech High (HTH) began in 2000 as a single charter high school launched by a coalition of San Diego business leaders and educators. It has evolved into an integrated network of schools spanning grades K-12, housing a comprehensive teacher professional learning program.

HTH is now a network of thirteen schools in San Diego County comprising two elementary schools, four middle schools, and five high schools. All of these schools serve a diverse, lottery-selected student population; all embody the HTH design principles of personalization, adult world connection, common intellectual mission, and teacher as designer.

One of the most amazing statistics is that 99% of High Tech High students go on to university with over 80% to four year courses.

In January 2012 members of the MOC executive team (supported in part by DECD) visited High Tech High (California, USA) to look at – autonomy of subschools within a whole school framework; personalised learning; project based learning as a way to deliver authentic meaningful learning for students (R-12); multidisciplinary teacher teams; less is more in curriculum delivery; and the use of exhibitions of learning to develop partnerships with parents and the community.

Our “residency” at HTH included being involved in their professional learning tours to a number of the HTH schools and a formal discussion about the graduate program specifically the Leading Schools Program- a hybrid program blending on-line learning and face to face collaboration- designed to transform schools.

Since that initial visit we have

- become an international participant in the Leading School program, blending on-line learning and face-to-face collaboration with High Tech High such that we can develop a less is more curriculum
- had Rob Riordan, President of the High Tech High Graduate School of Education and Laura McBain, Director of External Relations & Leading Schools Program to South Australia to work with us.
- had six staff participate in the Leading Schools Certificate program and graduate in 2013.
- in Term 1 2014 Laura McBain returns to MOC for a further series of workshops and Master Classes for staff both from within MOC and those from other schools
- had other staff visit from residencies and presentations

Our work with HTH has had a profound effect on our learning design. This has resulted in

- our less is more curriculum model to meet the needs of our children (R-10) and teachers.
- lead with innovative practice -like the HTH K-12 schools, develop within our village of schools programs that provide our students with learning experiences that are personalized, authentic, and relevant.
- our teachers teams initiated and integrated project-based curriculum to complement our curriculum
- the development by staff and students digital portfolios to demonstrate their learning.
- production of authentic product- which students then exhibit and explain their process of learning to their parents, peers and teachers