New Tech High @ Coppell, Coppell Independent School District

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Video: https://youtu.be/biYL_vlnt6c

Overview

New Tech High @ Coppell opened its doors in 2008 as a Coppell ISD high school of choice based on the New Tech Network model. There are four design pillars that guide our work: Outcomes that Matter, Teaching that Engages, Culture that Empowers, and Technology that Enables. Using project based learning, one-to-one devices (Macbook Airs), and a small school environment, our mission is to empower learners to pursue their passions, collaborate to solve real world problems, and practice leadership in their community.

New Digital Learning Environment

Viewing technology as an integral part of learning, our learners are each issued a MacBook Air at the start of their rookie (freshman) year. Our MacBook Airs come loaded with the Adobe Suite of applications that allow learners to engage in multimodal learning and product creation. All rookies are enrolled in a course called Critical Literacies that combines English 1 with Digital Media. In this course, learners receive the foundation for using all types of media to display their learning: video, graphics, images, audio files, etc. As learners progress throughout their years at NTH@C, they learn to use a number of software products like Keynote, Pages, Google Apps, and social media technologies.

New Learning Standards

Our learning design follows the structure of Project Based Learning (PBL) and Problem Based Learning (PrBL). Facilitators design projects that meet content standards, but that also have a high level of authenticity (for learner relevance) and a high level of skill instruction (for a college and career ready world). Examples of projects we have held over the years include a community [poetry slam](#) event, a catapult pumpkin launch, marketing advice for the Texas Rangers organization and ballpark, mock trials, and community gardens. Learners understand and engage with content while embedded in a real world scenario that activates interest. By the end of their senior year at NTH@C, learners are able to create a project of their own, implement it, and then present a professional presentation describing their process and what they have learned. Learners are assessed in their projects on both their mastery of TEKS and their mastery of our learning outcomes:

agency, collaboration, written communication, oral communication, and knowledge and thinking.

Organizational Transformation

Our campus uses an innovative master schedule to meet the needs of learners and to provide a variety of learning experiences. One day a week, we take advantage of flexible scheduling so that learners are able to have experiences that would not be possible in a traditional schedule. Some examples of things we do with our flexible scheduling include: holding grade-wide project launch events or final presentations, holding small workshops, holding sessions based on learner interests like yoga or robotics, and holding groups called Networkings. Networkings are groups of learners in grades 9-12 that form a small family on campus for the purposes of "family" bonding, advising, and competition. Learners can practice their leadership skills by designing the activities that take place during our networking time.

Additionally, we utilize ongoing professional development to calibrate around campus, learner, and educator needs. Once a week our educators meet in small groups to run their projects through a critical friend protocol or to discuss learners who need additional supports. Our staff also meets once a week as a whole group to engage in various learning activities. Currently, our staff is going through a PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle of collective inquiry. Educators are studying things like: how do we better teach collaboration and how do we ensure depth and rigor in assignments? Whole-staff professional development is designed to emulate the kinds of learning conditions that we want to see in classrooms. One example of this type of professional learning was our Iron Chef challenge that sent our staff members out to community partner locations to design new projects. After a day of learning in the community, staff members came back to campus with cross-curricular project ideas that have been utilized in many of their classrooms.

Evidence

School website

Apple iBook

[NTH@C School Blog](#)