PINCKNEY NEW TECH
TRUST–RESPECT–RESPONSIBILITY

WHY PINCKNEY NEW TECH HIGH?

Pinckney New Tech High ensures students develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to thrive in college, careers, and civic life. We do this by engaging and empowering students through a collaborative, student-led culture, project-based learning (PBL), an online learning management system, college/career ready learning outcomes, and real-world connections.

21st Century Skills

Research indicates that the top skills employers are looking for are critical thinking and problem-solving, effective oral and written communication, organizational skills, and the ability to collaborate with others. At Pinckney New Tech High, those skills, along with technological fluency, are integrated into all of our project-based units.

Students at PNTH give an average of 15-20 presentations each school year. They regularly collaborate on group projects which require them to analyze, research, and solve complex real-world problems. The public speaking, discipline-specific writing, and problem-solving skills that our students develop prepare them for the colleges and careers of their future.

College and Career Readiness

New Tech schools hold a shared vision for student success - college and career readiness for all students. At New Tech, this means that every New Tech graduate will leave aware, eligible, and prepared to pursue and persist in post-secondary education, training, and careers.

In the context of relevant projects, our students write several major individual assessments of knowledge and thinking each school year. These tasks are designed for students to practice reading and writing how those "in the field" do. Students' work is measured based on national rubrics created by New Tech Network in collaboration with Stanford University.

Internships

New Tech students gain real-world experience in potential career fields. PNTH connects students to 40-hour internship opportunities before graduation, usually taking place during Junior or Senior year. The internship project is designed to allow students to explore and evaluate potential career fields so they can make an informed decision upon graduation.

Student Voice & Advisory

New Tech schools pride themselves on a school culture that empowers and engages students. PNTH students have the opportunity to drive the approach to the PNTH Advisory program, while continuously informing improvements to the school.

PNTH students regularly gather to tend to a small learning community culture of trust, respect, and responsibility. Led by Student Voice, Advisory is a place for students to connect with one another within and across grades, and to engage in activities that bridge them with the community and their future.

"I like how our teachers and administrators work together with the students to make it a better place for everyone."
—PNTH Freshman

"I like how every day is different; we are always challenged to learn something new."
—PNTH Junior

"I like the 'family' feeling. We all are close. I also love the fact that our school has good teachers!"
—PNTH Sophomore

"I like how they (teachers) connect the lessons and learning strategies to things you will actually do later in life. You learn a lot of life skills."
—PNTH Senior

Part of a National Network

Pinckney New Tech is part of the New Tech Network, a national non-profit organization that works with districts and communities throughout the country to transform schools into innovative learning environments.

The New Tech Network currently consists of nearly 200 schools in 28 states and Australia. New Tech schools prioritize a culture that empowers, teaching that engages, technology that enables, and outcomes that matter.

- New Tech Students attain a 92% graduation rate, 9 percentage points higher than the national average of 83%.
- New Tech Students grow 52% more in Critical Thinking skills than national comparison groups over the last 3 years, as measured by the College and Work Readiness Assessment.
- New Tech Students persist in college at a rate of 82%, 4 percentage points higher than the national average of 78%.

Source: http://www.newtechnetwork.org/

The History

Pinckney New Tech began in 2010 as a small school-within-a school at Pinckney Community High School with the aim of offering an innovative, 21st Century option for PCS students. It is an option for all learners, starting in 10th grade.

The New Tech Impact

Alumni report that New Tech prepared them to be natural group leaders, to manage their time effectively, to advocate for themselves, to communicate effectively with peers and professors, to give presentations confidently, and to be a leader amongst their peers.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Project-Based Learning is the core teaching and learning methodology at PNTH. Rather than the traditional project at the end of a unit, at New Tech, an authentic project or problem is what drives the learning.

As students work together to complete a project, they learn the state and national standards while explicitly developing critical thinking, agency, oral and written communication, collaboration, and technology skills which are calculated as part of their grade.

Alumni continue to report that their college courses, across all concentrations, have lots of group projects!

New Tech Courses

Sophomore Year:
NTH ELA 10
NTH World History
NTH Biology
PCHS Math

Junior Year:
NTH Chemistry or Biomed Sci
NTH ELA 11
NTH Govt & Consumer Econ
PCHS Math

Senior Year:
NTH English 12
NTH Chemistry or Biomed Sci
NTH Photoshop & Video Animation
PCHS Math

Electives & College / Career Awareness

Student Voice-Led Advisory
Internships / External Partnerships
In addition to New Tech courses, students select their electives from the wide variety offered by PCHS.

Community Partnerships

We have very successful partnerships with organizations ranging from Lowry Solutions of Brighton, MI to the Huron River Watershed Council, the Michigan Humanities Council, the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, and Pinckney Community Elementary Schools. At Lowry, our partnership has resulted in a challenging class project and more than 47 internships over the last four years.

"Today's high school students are the future of our society. Our partnership with New Tech is far more than we had imagined when it started. The students are bright and energetic, allowing for our organization to learn just as much from them as they learn from us. We look forward to a longstanding partnership with this outstanding education program." ---Mike Lowry CEO of Lowry Computer Products

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