



# 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), the intentional use of technology, college & career ready learning outcomes, and real-world connections.**

### Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Project-Based Learning is the core teaching and learning methodology at NTH. 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 has taught me the confidence I need to succeed in life."

—NTH Senior

"New Tech has given me a stronger set of communication skills as well as pushed me through my fears and anxiety to become a stronger person."

—NTH Sophomore

### 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 & Job Shadowing

New Tech students gain real-world experience in potential career fields. NTH connects students to 40-hour internship & job shadowing opportunities before graduation, usually taking place during Junior or Senior year. This internship or job shadow expectation is in service of developing students' career awareness so that they can make more informed post-secondary decisions.

### Student Voice & Advisory

New Tech schools pride themselves on a school culture that puts student voice at the center. All NTH students have the opportunity to drive the approach to the New Tech Advisory program, while continuously informing improvements to the program at-large.

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. Our Student Voice leaders also inform our annual college visit and field trip destination.



"I love the community we've built in New Tech, and how student-driven all the events are."

—NTH Junior

"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."

—NTH 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 over 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 94% graduation rate, 9 percentage points higher than the national average of 85%.
- New Tech Students out-perform on state exams, external assessments, and ACT/SAT
- New Tech Students persist in college at a rate of 82%, 8 percentage points higher than the national average of 74%.

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, 21<sup>st</sup> Century option for PCS students. It is an option for all learners, starting in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

## The New Tech Impact

NTH continues to tout strong and meaningful outcomes for its graduates: a 98% graduation rate, outcomes often out-performing county, state, and national averages, and alumni who tell us year after year that PNTH grew them into skillful collaborators, confident presenters, proud self-advocates, and ultimately, successful college students and professionals.

## 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 are integrated into all of our project-based units.

Students at NTH 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.

## New Tech Courses for 2020-21

(New Tech students expected to take all NTH courses offered. Some courses may be integrated & co-taught.)

### Sophomore Year:

- NTH ELA 10 (Honors Option!)
- NTH World History
- NTH Biology

### Junior Year:

- NTH ELA 11
- NTH Govt & Consumer Econ
- NTH Chemistry (Honors Option!)

### Senior Year:

- NTH English 12
- NTH Senior Capstone

### Electives & College / Career Awareness

- Student Voice-Led Advisory
- Internships / External Partnerships
- Annual field trip & college visit
- 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 50 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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