

**“#1 Charter High School in California.” – USC School Performance Dashboard, 2013**

**High Tech Los Angeles Charter High School** 17111 Victory Boulevard Van Nuys, CA 91406 College Office (818) 609-2681

### Mission

HighTech Los Angeles (HTLA) is a diverse community of active learners dedicated to fusing the traditional academic subjects with real-world, technical applications and problem solving skills. Students are productive, self-directed learners, engaged in rigorous, relevant work. HTLA prepares students to be motivated, influential leaders committed to the challenge of connecting our community to the larger society.

### Development

HTLA was conceived as a model school for the 21st Century by education entrepreneur Roberta Weintraub in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District, a group of leading high-tech firms and nonprofit foundations. A replication site of High Tech High in San Diego, HTLA became the nation’s first charter school on the campus of another public school – Birmingham High – and opened the 2002-2003 school year in temporary quarters. The current state-of-the-art facility opened to students in time for the 2004-2005 school year. On July 1, 2008, HTLA became an independent California charter school. This year, HTLA is home to 392 students in grades 9-12 including 80 graduating, college-bound seniors.

Innovative features include performance-based assessment, shared planning and meeting time for staff, state-of-the-art technical facilities for project-based learning, internships and connections to the community.

**Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges**, in 2007 we were honored as a **California Distinguished High School**. In 2013 we were named the **#1 Charter High School in California** by the USC Performance Dashboard.

### High Tech LA Students

Our students represent the full socio-economic and cultural diversity of Los Angeles. HTLA is a Title I school. Fifty percent of our students qualify for the **Federal Free/Reduced Lunch program**. The only criteria for admission to HTLA are California residence, graduation from the 8th grade and submission of the student’s name in February of their 8th grade year. If there are more applicants than available spaces for a freshman class, **students are chosen for admission via lottery**.

We generally do not take students after the 9th grade since our culture, course standards, course sequence and graduation requirements are very different than most local schools.

Student learning is enhanced by individual and group projects. Students must complete a Presentation of Learning (POL) at the end of each semester to exhibit and present their work and in the spring, they must pass their Transitional Presentation of Learning (TPOL) showing mastery of academic content in order to continue to the next grade level.



### High Tech Los Angeles Students:

**Total Enrollment: 392, Grades 9-12, Female 125/ Male 250**

Grade	Students
9th	119
10th	107
11th	86
12th	80

### Ethnicity Breakdown of Students

Asian	1.0 %	Hispanic	29 %
African American	1.5 %	Caucasian	35 %
Filipino	2.5 %	Unclassified	31 %

50 % of students are on the Federal Free/Reduced lunch program.

58 % of students will be first in their families to attend college.

### Faculty

The HTLA teaching faculty, 19 in all, consists of a mix of experienced teachers and newly trained teachers. Each faculty member serves as an advisor to about 25 students. Students interact with their advisor throughout each year of the program on a range of issues, including personal expression, support, college and career preparation and technology. Teachers work in interdisciplinary grade-level teams responsible for academic progress of students in their group.

### Academic Internships

Through relationships with business partners, students benefit from internships and gain valuable professional feedback working and learning on-site at businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations and professional associations. Each HTLA student must complete an internship during the senior year. All students are interviewed and assigned a mentor.

HTLA has developed academic internships with over 30 local businesses and organizations including: *Boys and Girls Club, Chef Merito Inc., Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, Providence Tarzana Medical Center, I.D. Me Promotions, Mid Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mike's Roofing Service Co., Inc., Neighborhood Legal Services, North Valley Chamber of Commerce, Office of Congressman Brad Sherman, Roberts Tool Co. Inc., Encino Elementary School, Los Angeles Family Housing, Loungefly, ONEGeneration, New Horizons, Lemay Elementary, Cucina dell Cucina Inc., Skirball Hospice, Dragonfly Design Group, SOVA, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's District Office.*

### F.I.R.S.T. Robotics

Our F.I.R.S.T. robotics team teaches students the design and construction of robots requiring teamwork and intellectual problem-solving skills. Robotic competitions build motivation and camaraderie. Students also participate in creating business plans and publicity for the team.



### Core and Cutting Edge Curriculum

HTLA is a small learning community in which teachers effectively incorporate technology into the classroom, gearing their expertise to individual learning styles and making HTLA a model school demonstrating "best practices" in secondary education. All students receive a rigorous college-bound curriculum and must meet or exceed the A-G requirements for entrance into the University of California as their high school graduation requirements. With a deep commitment to impact the job readiness of students, HTLA is ambitious in the exploration of STEM studies (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Simultaneously, as we have grown over the years, our humanities staff has proven itself to also be equally strong and demanding as demonstrated by our student's future interest in everything from architecture and the arts to history, international studies, creative writing and journalism.



### Advanced Courses

HTLA customizes its courses to individual students. Teachers work to challenge students to their highest abilities. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 have the option to contract with teachers and take classes for honors credit. We offer a total of 9 classes for honors credits. Honors courses are rigorous and should be viewed as college-level study. Students in the senior class are able and encouraged to take one course off-campus at a local community college instead of enrolling in our elective courses. The alternate semester seniors complete an internship at a local business.

### Project-Based Learning

An essential component of the HTLA program is project-based learning in which students utilize a variety of technological tools to approach academic subjects. Projects require students to apply skills in situations that mirror professional environments. Continuous learning is facilitated through the students' ability to connect with teachers and peers outside of the classroom since collaborative projects can be continued via the Internet.

### Tutoring, on campus clubs, Ambassadors, CSUN ACCESS Program, FIRST Robotics

HTLA offers several after school programs including Students Run LA (LA Marathon training), F.I.R.S.T. Robotics, teacher tutoring, and supervised access to technology. Clubs are student initiated and sponsored by teachers. Depending on student interest, the clubs on campus may include: Community Wishing Well, Student Council (and grade level councils), F.I.R.S.T. Robotics, Music & Performance Club, California Scholastic Federation (CSF), Eco Club, Gay Straight Alliance, and Game Club (computer gaming and LAN parties), Newspaper (HTLA Today), Art Club. Students are nominated by teachers, interviewed and selected to be a school Ambassador. They are responsible for peer tutoring, career week on campus, giving campus tours and conducting school outreach to local businesses. Ambassadors are reselected each school year. California State University Northridge (CSUN) Accelerated Coursework in Computer Science and Engineering for Student Success (ACCESS) is offered once a year to 11th and 12th grade students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. This is an engineering course online for two CSUN college credits.



**Grading**

**HTLA students receive a letter grade for each completed class, converted to a 4-point scale.**

Grade	Description	Regular	Honors
A	Excellent	4 pts.	5 pts.
B	Above Average	3 pts.	4 pts.
C	Satisfactory	2 pts.	3 pts.
D	Unsatisfactory	1 pts.	0 pts.
F	Failing	0 pts.	0 pts.

**Graduation Core Course Requirements**

All students are required to take a rigorous full load of courses each year. Aside from our core course requirements listed below, beginning in the 2010-11 academic year, students no longer received credit toward graduation for courses in which they had not received a C or higher.

**4 Years of Social Studies**

- Humanities A/B (9th grade)
- World History A/B (Honors available)
- US History A/B (Honors available)
- Government/Economics

**4 Years of English**

- English 9 A/B
- English 10 A/B
- American Literature/Contemporary Composition (Honors available)(11th grade)
- CSU Expository Reading and Writing (12th grade)

**4 Years of College Prep Math**

- Math 1 A/B, Math 2 A/B (Honors Available), Math 3 A/B (Honors Available)
- Statistics, Pre-Calculus or Honors Advanced Calculus (12th grade)

**4 Years of College Prep Science**

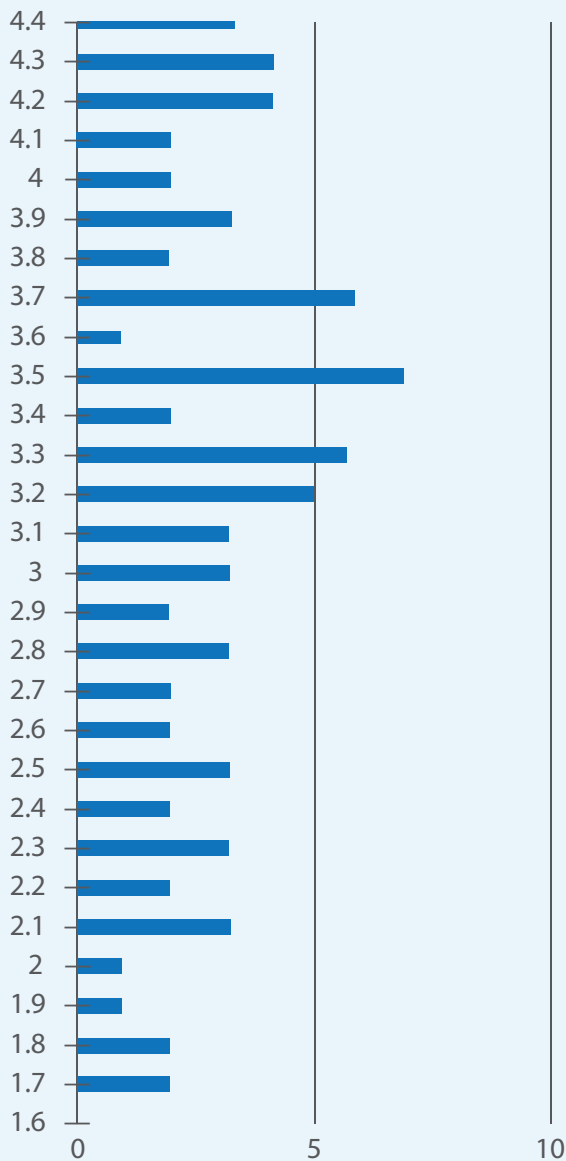
- Project Physics A/B (9th grade)
- Chemistry A/B (Honors available)(10th grade)
- Advanced Biology A/B (Honors available)(11th grade)
- Honors Advanced Physics A/B (12th grade), Environmental Studies A/B (12th grade), Marine Biology A/B

**Other Graduation Requirements**

- 1 Year Visual or Performing Art – (Digital Photography)
- 2 Years Spanish
- 1 Semester Internship (Sr. year)
- Computer Literacy (each year; 9-12)
- Physical Education – (Xblock) (each year; 9-12)
- Pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)
- Pass the yearlong Transitional Presentations of Learning

Class	Students	Avg. GPA	Avg. SAT 1600	Avg. SAT 2400	Avg. ACT
2012	81	3.087	1080	1594	25
2013	66	3.155	1050	1565	22
2014	57	3.246	1037	1559	22
2015	81	3.204	1054	1560	24
2016	80	3.155	1001	1495	24

**Class of 2016 GPA Distribution**



## Courses and Electives Offered

**English:** English 9 A/B, English 10 A/B American Literature/Contemporary Composition (Honors available)(11th grade), CSU Expository Reading and Writing (12th grade)

**History/Social Studies:** Principles of American Democracy, US History 20th Century A/B, Honors US History 20th Century A/B, World History, Culture, & Geography: Modern World A/B

**Mathematics:** Math 1 A/B, Math 2 A/B, Math 3 A/B (and honors), Statistics and Probability A/B, Honors Advanced Calculus A/B, Pre-Calculus A/B

**Lab Science:** Biology A/B, Honors Advanced Biology A/B, Chemistry A/B, Honors Chemistry AB, Physics A/B (9th grade), Honors Physics A/B (12th grade)

**Foreign Language:** Spanish 1 A/B, Spanish 2 A/B, Spanish 3 A/B

**Visual/Performing Arts:** Drama A/B, Photography 1 A/B, Advanced Acting/Play Production A/B

**Electives (offered on a rotating basis):** Brain Mind and Consciousness, Design Thinking, Economics, Environmental Studies A/B, History of Math, Journalism 1 and 2 A/B, Library Project (students created the HTLA library) Logic, Marine Biology A/B, Music and Technology A/B (guitar), Online elective course, Psychology, Robotics, Science and Technology Research I & II, Sociology, Spanish 3, Teacher Assistant, Tech Internship, Urban Agronomy, Yearbook Journalism, Modern History, Tutor

**X-Block (our version of P.E. offered on a rotating basis):** Yoga, archery, pilates, football, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, conditioning, skateboarding, dance, running, biking, dance, nature walking, power walking, and basketball.

## Graduates of HTLA have been admitted to the following four-year colleges and universities:

Abilene Christian University  
Academy of Art University  
American University  
Arizona State University  
Barnard College  
Becker College  
Biola University  
Boston University  
Brigham Young University  
California Lutheran University  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
California State University, Channel Islands  
California State University, Chico  
California State University, Dominguez Hills  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Fresno  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, Los Angeles  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
California State University, Northridge  
California State University, Sacramento  
California State University, San Bernardino  
California State University, San Marcos  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Chaminade University of Honolulu  
Champlain College  
Chapman University  
Claremont McKenna College  
Clark University  
Colby College  
Colorado School of Mines  
Columbia College  
Cornell University  
CSU Stanislaus  
Dickinson College  
Dominican University  
Drexel University  
Emerson College  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Florida Institute of Technology  
George Fox University  
Gonzaga University  
Goucher College  
Grinnell College  
Guilford College  
Hampshire College  
Hampton University  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Hope International  
Humboldt State University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kalamazoo College  
University of LaVerne  
Lewis & Clark College  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Manhattanville College  
The Master's College and Seminary  
Menlo College  
Mesa State College  
Mills College  
Morehouse College  
Mount St. Mary's College  
Nativ, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (gap year/study abroad)  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Occidental College  
Oregon State University  
Otis College of Art and Design  
Parsons School of Design,  
New School University  
Pepperdine University  
Pitzer College  
Purdue University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Japan)  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Saint Mary's College of California  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
Santa Clara University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Smith College  
Sonoma State University  
Suffolk University  
The Art Institute of California – Los Angeles  
The George Washington University  
The University of Arizona  
University of California at Berkeley  
University of California at Davis  
University of California at Irvine  
University of California at Los Angeles  
University of California at Merced  
University of California at Riverside  
University of California at San Diego  
University of California at Santa Barbara  
University of California at Santa Cruz  
University of California, San Francisco  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Denver  
University of Evansville  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
University of La Verne  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Redlands  
University of San Diego  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
University of the Pacific  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
University of Wyoming  
Vanderbilt University  
Warren Wilson College  
Webster University  
Western Washington University  
Whittier College  
Willamette University  
Woodbury College  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute