

12 facts about Tech Valley High School

1) Tech Valley High School (TVHS) is about today ... and TOMORROW.

Tech Valley High School was created in 2007 to provide today's students with the skills necessary to be successful in college *and* in tomorrow's workforce. The theme of the school is a strong emphasis on math, science and technology, however the reality is that students receive a well-rounded education that will prepare them to compete in the growing high tech and global economy that is emerging in Capital Region's Tech Valley.

2)TVHS is open to all.

All eighth grade students can apply to Tech Valley High School. The only requirements for acceptance are that the eighth grade student meet with his/her middle school counselor to discuss his/her application, complete the application and submit it to their middle school counselor by February 13 and attend a parent-student information session with their parent(s).

3) There is no tuition for parents to pay.

Funding for the school is provided by component school districts, as well as the state and grants provided by private-sector sources, including the New Technology Foundation.

4) Students can participate in after-school activities in their home districts.

Attending TVHS does not preclude students from playing sports in their home districts. A number of current students take part in athletics in their respective districts.

5) Students receive a well-rounded education that includes art, foreign language and physical education in addition to our core subjects.

Students graduate Tech Valley High School having met and/or exceeded requirements for a New York State Regents and/or an Advanced Regents Diploma. Many students also take courses that qualify them for college credits. Courses are taught in project-based learning environments that emphasize math, science and technologies, but also expose students to the Chinese language, art and physical education.

Students are graded not only on how well they learn the subject matter, but also on their progress towards achieving 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communications, creativity, information and media literacy.

6) Students receive a grade that evaluates their entire academic performance.

Students are graded not only on how well they learn the subject matter, but also on their progress towards achieving 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communications, creativity, information and media literacy and contextual learning.

7) TVHS partners with educators in all grade levels, businesses, organized labor, the government and colleges.

Whether at Tech Valley High or elsewhere, the successful education of a student is the result of a team effort. TVHS takes the team approach to another level, combining business leaders, organized labor, government representatives and educators from all levels to provide a thorough education for its



students.

8) TVHS is small ... and will remain that way.

During the current school year, approximately 75 students attend TVHS. As it grows, an estimated 40 students are expected to join the school each year. This allows students to receive individualized attention, yet work collaboratively with their peers.

9) Technology plays an important role in every student's education.

As the name suggests, the use of technology provides an important role in student learning on a day-to-day basis at TVHS. Students learn with - and from - technology, whether its producing a video or completing an online project with their peers while at home after-school. Each student is provided with a computer and network access.

10) TVHS was created through, among other entities, funding from Bill and Melinda Gates' New Technology Foundation.

The school was awarded \$400,000 from the foundation to help in its launching and is networked with 41 other similar schools across the country. As part of a model for a new education system, TVHS receives training and ongoing professional development from the foundation, as well as technological tools to use in the classroom.

11) Transportation is provided.

Each student's home school district provides busing to Tech Valley High School.

12) TVHS students take part in "real world" projects that teach them a multitude of skills.

For example, students work with the environmental experts, such as The Beacon Institute For Advanced Environmental Technology, to study the health of the Hudson River's aquatic life and the level of pollutants in the river by building sensors and gathering data.



A well rounded education: Above, students perform an act from Julius Caesar that they re-wrote to reflect modern language and influences. To the right, a student helps the community by donating to an Albany Head Start school - one of the many charitable activities in TVHS that reinforces civic responsibilities.



"Learning is just so different here. Everything is presented in a way that answers 'Why am I learning this?'"

- Nathaniel Hileman,
freshman

Tech Valley High School

"Preparing today's student for the rigors of tomorrow's workplace."

"We learn from teachers, our peers and people from the community. We also have to be able to learn from ourselves, find our own resources and solve problems."

- Rebecca Sturn,
sophomore