Overview of High Tech High Digital Portfolio

High Tech High is a project-based school. This means that our students learn by working on projects, rather than by focusing on textbooks and taking tests. High Tech High students earn traditional grades for traditional classes such as Math and English. However, a collection of letter grades can never tell us very much about all the projects they complete over the time they are with us at High Tech High. Traditional assessments do not paint a very broad nor deep picture of student work and achievement.

Artists, such as photographers or painters, have known that telling people about their work does little to demonstrate their true skills and abilities. For this reason, they create collections of their work in portable portfolios. Like artists, our students have much work that they want to tell people about. Like an artist's collection of paintings or photographs, they have a collection of projects to tell about. For this reason, each student will create and maintain a portfolio of their work over the time they are at High Tech High.

High Tech High portfolios will be much more that just a place to collect student work. Their portfolios will communicate who they are, what they have learned, and what they have accomplished. They will be able to demonstrate their true skills and abilities. Over the years students attend High Tech High, they will have many opportunities to reflect on their work. Others will also evaluate their work and give them feedback. Their portfolios will also be a place to collect these evaluations. Looking back on these evaluations, and how they have changed over time, can be a great learning experience.

Typically a portfolio is a portable case for holding work samples. A portable case is good because students can take it with them. But it would be difficult to show it to people that are not physically in front of the student. We believe that many people are going to be interested in the work of High Tech High students. For this reason, High Tech High students will create a digital portfolio. This digital portfolio will be similar to a physical portfolio, but because it is digital, High Tech High students will be able to post their portfolio on High Tech High's web site so people from anywhere in the world can view their work over the internet. Students will also be able to carry their digital portfolio with them on a compact disk.

There are a few skills that our students need to learn to create and maintain their digital portfolio. High Tech High students begin to build these skills over this first trimester of their freshmen year. At the end of this first trimester they will have created the basic framework of their digital portfolios and will have some projects and work samples to place in their portfolios. Student portfolios at High Tech High will maintain a certain amount of common structure, but students will also have the opportunity to be very creative. Best of all, we think that creating their digital portfolio will be a lot of fun.

High Tech High Digital Portfolio Highlights

Orientation and Student Portfolios

Internet based orientation to digital portfolio and student portfolios can be found at: **http://plato.hightechhigh.org/staff/jwells/**
(Temporary location, new location to be updated next week. Student portfolios on line soon.)

Lifelong Learners

At High Tech High, all students, faculty and administration create and maintain digital portfolios. Although the students and staffs portfolios vary somewhat in form and structure, the concept of regular reflection on learning and goals certainly applies to everyone at High Tech High. Lifelong learning is modeled through this process.

Dynamic Portfolios

One of the first things a new High Tech High student or staff member does is create a digital portfolio. Every trimester thereafter, students and staff update their portfolios. In this way High Tech High digital portfolios become dynamic representations of their learning and growth. As a dynamic portfolio, a simply component such as the personal statement can provide tremendous insight into an individual's growth and changing thinking. Imagine viewing a graduating seniors personal statement, reflecting history, interest, and goals. Now imagine having access to twelve previous personal statements and seeing how this individual's writing, thinking, interests and goals have changed over time. This is the essence of High Tech High's digital portfolio, a dynamic vehicle providing insight into individual change and growth.

Time and Resource Commitment

Over the first week of every school year, as well as the first two days of each trimester High Tech High allocates time and technical resources to work together and individually on digital portfolios. At the beginning of the second and third trimester, High Tech High also spends two days working on digital portfolios.

Connected to Advisories and Personalized Learning Plans

During these sessions, students and staff reflect, have conversations, and write about our collective and individual goals. Through advisory groups, we discuss accomplishments as well as goals that were not met. We think about what got in the way of meeting our goals and explore ways we can overcome these challenges in the future. Time is also given to thinking about how our goals have changed. High Tech High students and staff document these thoughts, reflections, and conversations as a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) in their individual digital portfolios. Students and staff also collect evidence for achieving learning goals. This evidence is digitized, if it is not already in digital form, and updated in portfolios. At the beginning of each school year, new students and staff members learn about the technology required to create and maintain a digital portfolio. During this time returning students and staff help new students as well as explore advanced technologies to improve upon existing portfolios.

Beginning of Trimester Digital Portfolio Curriculum

> ### PLP / Reflection on Past Trimester Goals (Advisory)
>> Students and Faculty form writing and advisory discussion groups
>> Introduction and focus on the power of Goal Setting.
>> Reflection: What are three things you have accomplished where you had a specific goal and you worked towards accomplishing that goal?
>> What were your goals for this past trimester?
>> Did you meet your goals?
>> If not what, what got in the way?
>> How have your goals changed?
>> Other PLP activities.
>> Collect information about what students and faculty are working on and what, if anything, is getting the way. Collected information about how goals have changed.
>> Time: Two 1.5 hr sessions. .

> ### Personal Statement
>> Students either write their initial personal statement, or update an existing personal statement. Students learn to archive past personal statements. Each student should have one personal statement for every trimester they attend High Tech High.
>> Integrated with writing workshop.
>> Time: One 1.5 hr session

> ### Habits of Mind
>> Students and teachers engage in an exercise to get them thinking about the HOM. Reflections on how they have been used.
>> Students explore ways of collecting evidence for the use of HOM.
>> Students explore further ways HOM can be utilized. HOM and collecting evidence belong next to each other.

Time: One 1.5 hr session

> ## Collecting Evidence
> Students learn what evidence should be collected. Students learn about identification, reflection, selection or rejection, and incorporation of evidence of learning into the DP.
> Time: Three 1.5 hour sessions.

> ## Resume
> Students learn about the structure and form of a resume. Students write or revise their resume. Students learn to archive past resume.
> Time: One 1.5 hr session

> ## *DP Basics
> Learn the basics of Dreamweaver web authoring tool. Understand the core structure of the DP. See examples of other student's DPs. Build basic structure of DP. DP management including archiving past work, and backing up data. Advanced students and staff act as technology tutors.
> Time: One 1.5 hour session. Plus two 1.5 hr sessions for further independent work with tutorial support.

> ## *Design (Splash Page/Links/Pages)
> Students learn the fundamentals of design. Students work on the design of their Splash Page and overall DP.
> Time: One 1.5 hr session

> ## *Advanced Web Design I & II
> (Elective)
> Students learn about advanced web design such as Macromedia Flash, Photoshop, and HTML. Students learn how to create multimedia splash pages and advanced navigation systems.
> Time: Two 1.5 hour sessions.

> ## Independent DP work
> Students and faculty work independently on DP.
> Time: Three 1.5 hour sessions.

> ## Student and Faculty Questionnaire
> (Link to database emailed to students and faculty. Questionnaire filled out over the course of the week.)
> On a scale from 1-10, rate your overall experience at High Tech High. (10 = I can't believe that school could be this good! 1 = I can't believe that school could be this bad.)

What do you like about High Tech High?
What could be better?
On a scale of 1-10 rate each of your classes/clubs/activities.
What did you like about class/club/activity?
What could have been better?
(This deserves further study, bringing a few people together to decide what we really want to know? At specific times specific questions can be asked.)

* These sections are only scheduled during the first trimester. Second and third trimesters would focus on reflection / writing and collecting evidence.

High Tech High Digital Portfolio Sections

Splash Page

A digital portfolio's splash page is the equivalent to a paper portfolio's cover. It sets the tone for the information to follow. It's a great place to show your creativity. One of the things you will learn at HTH are the elements of good design. Check out a few examples of NTH splash pages by clicking below.

The second page in your digital portfolio is the personal statement page. This page must have two components.

1) Your personal statement.

2) Links to other areas of the digital portfolio.

The purpose of the personal statement is to introduce yourself to the reader. This should include information about yourself, such as your history, goals, and interest. Of course, the links will allow the viewer navigate throughout your digital portfolio.

Check out a few personal statement examples.

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Check out a few personal statement examples.

*Resume*A resume is a one or two page summary of your skills, accomplishments, experiences, and education designed to capture a prospective employer's interest. **The purpose of a resume is to secure an interview.** It is the primary tool of a job search and will take many drafts to prepare effectively. A resume is a changing document. You will need to update your resume as you gain more experience and education. You may also want to make changes depending upon your audience, the person or organization you are sending your resume.

Take a look at a few student resume examples by clicking on the link below.

Projects

How about we form a soccer team?

First we'll have to learn and practice the fundamentals of the game; two years of dribbling, one year of advanced ball handling , two years of

passing, three years of defensive strategy, three years of offensive strategy, and one more year of position play. Then we'll play a game!
What do you mean, "Twelve years of practice doesn't sound like fun!" But you'll have to use all of those skills when you play the game. What, you think you can learn how to play soccer *while* you play the game?....
...............you know what?, that just might work.
One of the principal missions of High Tech High is to have you put into practice the things you learn, <u>while you learn them</u>.   Use writing, pictures, audio, and video to show off your cool projects in your digital portfolio.

Internships

We hope that the things you learn here at High Tech High will help prepare you for college, a successful career, and life. As a part of this preparation you will have the opportunity to participate in workplace internships. Through these internships at local businesses and organizations you will have the chance to work with adults while you learn, explore your interests, and apply what you have learned at High Tech High.

Mi Mundo

""Mi mundo" is the Spanish component of your Digital Portfolio. It is built around yourself as a person, a member of your family and your community, and as a student.
"Through "Mi mundo" you will make yourself known to any Spanish speaking person in the world that accesses your digital portfolio.
" "Mi mundo" will allow you to take control over your learning process of the Spanish language.
"**Componentes de "Mi mundo"**
"**1. Presentacion**
"**2. Mi presente**
"**3. Mi futuro**
"**4. Mi historia**
"**5. El espanol y yo**
"**6. Curriculum Vitae**
"**7. Contacto**

*Contact Information*Many people will be very impressed by your digital portfolio and may want to get in touch with you. Your digital portfolio will have a section to tell people how to do just that.

This section should include:

•Your full name.

•Your email address.

•High Tech High's mailing address.

Until you graduate from HTH, contact information should ___not___ include:

'Do not include your phone number.

'Do not include a mailing address other than HTH's address

High Tech High 2861 Womble Road, San Diego, CA 92106-6025

My Homepage

By now, you probably have noticed that we have imposed quite a bit of structure on the digital portfolio. A link to an optional personal home page will give you the opportunity to have complete control over what and how you communicate with people that visit your digital portfolio. While your digital portfolio will be saved and maintained on High Tech High's server, you will have to find your own place to host your personal web pages. Fortunately, there are quite a few internet companies, such as Geo Cities that will host your home page for free. Be expressive and have fun!

Digital Portfolio Check List

Splash Page _____
(Only splash graphic linked to personal statement. Nothing else)
Personal Statement _____
(Only personal statement and 7 specific links in specific order. Nothing else.)
    Links____
        Graphic or Icon that links back to the splash page
        1) Personal Statement
        2) Resume____
        3) PLP____
        4) Work Samples____
        5) Mi Mundo___
        6) Contact Information ____
        7) My Homepage ____
Resume____
    Present
    Future Self? ____

Work Samples____
    Learning Goals____
        Habits of Mind
            Perspective____
            Connections____
            Evidence___
            Relevance____
            Supposition____
        Communication ____
            Oral ____
            Written____
        Technology
        Collaboration____
        Art and Design____
        Ethics and Responsibility____
        Core Content Knowledge
    Projects____
    Internships____
Mi Mundo____
Contact Information
My Homepage____