



TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION and CAREERS - OVERVIEW, GOALS and BELIEFS

OVERARCHING GOAL

Technology Education and Careers (TEC) aims to provide meaningful and dynamic learning experiences that build on and enhance students' understanding of existing and emerging technologies and careers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW

In the middle school, the program targets this goal through technology, offering courses focusing on:

Information Technology: The IT Foundations course is designed to engage students with technology concepts and applications that influence their current digital lives and future careers. It is our belief that the I.T. foundation course should provide students with opportunities to explore, consolidate, and extend their skills in support of anytime, anywhere learning. Students may subsequently elect to follow semester long IT "Encore" courses, designed to explore interests in specific digital technologies.

Technology Education: Through hands-on/minds-on laboratory experiences, the foundational Technology Education course is designed to explore the nature and scope of technology and how it influences our lives. Students may subsequently elect to follow semester long IT "Encore" courses, designed to explore creative problem-solving through technology and technological systems.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BELIEFS

In support of technology learning at the middle school level we believe:

Middle school students learn best when they can make connections to their learning. Therefore,

- Our courses offer meaningful, authentic learning experiences that provide opportunities for students to make connections between their learning and own lives.

Middle school students need opportunities to build foundational skills and knowledge as well as explore their interests. Therefore,

- While providing learning experiences that build essential foundations, our courses are exploratory in nature, offering opportunities for students to exercise choice and pursue their interests.

Middle school students are expected to be increasingly responsible and independent learners. Therefore,

- Our courses help foster the habits of mind needed for becoming a successful and responsible independent learner

HIGH SCHOOL OVERVIEW

In the high school, the TEC department provides students with relevant contexts beyond the core high school academic areas, linking their knowledge with the skills they need for success in college and careers. The goal of the high school TEC department is to develop and implement programs that increase the academic, career, and technical skills necessary for success in the 21st century global economy and its rapidly changing needs. To fulfill these goals, TEC courses are organized under two board domains: careers and technology.

Careers: Courses that are beyond the traditional high school disciplines fall into this domain. These courses provide a framework and general experiences for a career that is not already associated with another established educational discipline (i.e., art, science). These courses are highly practical and offer a clear understanding of what the career entails.

Technology Education: Courses in the technology education area provide fundamental knowledge, experiences, or technical skills related to applying hands-on applications in areas outside the traditional academic areas. Courses are also offered which provide substantial time for students to understand, learn, and experience the use of computer technology.

HIGH SCHOOL BELIEFS

In support of careers and technology learning at the high school level we believe:

Research shows that to be successful, students must be able to think critically, solve problems, collaborate, and communicate effectively. Therefore,

- Opportunities to develop these are embedded throughout each of our courses.

Careers and Technology are constantly evolving. Therefore,

- TEC teachers must be knowledgeable early adopters of new ideas in their fields.
- TEC must constantly develop new courses and units to remain current with industry standards.
- Students must learn authentic knowledge and skills for real-world contexts and applications

Academic Rigor is essential and must equip students to adapt to evolving knowledge and skills.

Therefore,

- TEC will refer to the highest standards and provide flexible and challenging learning opportunities.

TEC should be supportive of traditional academic departments. Therefore,

- We will provide opportunities for students to experience how core academics are applied in the world of work.

The use of community resources is essential for effective instruction. Therefore,

- We will seek out ways to involve knowledgeable and experienced adults in our programs.

Students want to investigate a wide range of career possibilities. Therefore,

- A wide variety of relevant courses will be offered.

TEC courses provide a smooth transition from high school to college to career. Therefore,

- The curriculum offers students regular real-world experiences based on student needs.