



November 2021

Dear Middle School Principals and Counselors:

The past two years have changed the way we think about schooling. Like our component districts, Tech Valley High School has sought to support the health and safety of all, while striving to adhere to the principles of Project-Based Learning that make our program unique. Despite the challenges of the 2020-21 school year, multiple graduating seniors completed the TVHS program and a concurrent Associates degree from Excelsior College. Dozens of other students continue to take advantage of our robust College Ready partnerships.

Tech Valley builds student skills in our School-wide Learning Outcomes: communication, self-direction, collaboration, and information literacy skills. One-hundred forty students from 31 school districts and 7 counties currently participate in TVHS. Our influence continues to extend beyond the walls of our school with educators from around the region, the state, the country, and the world using Tech Valley High as a resource to learn about project-based learning.

I am writing to you because TVHS is gearing up for the recruitment of the freshman class starting high school in September 2022. We have enclosed several items which we hope will assist your efforts throughout the recruitment process in the upcoming months.

In this mailing, you will find:

- Tech Valley High School's [recruitment brochures](#)
- [TVHS applications](#)
- General guidelines you can use to determine if TVHS is the right fit for a student.
- TVHS course of study
- An application timeline for counselors, which details the materials that need to be submitted for enrollment.
- A recruitment letter for parents that can be sent home with students and shared on your website. The information session schedule is included in this letter.



Please note: digital copies of these materials are available online at [www.techvalleyhigh.org/admissions](http://www.techvalleyhigh.org/admissions). However, if you need additional paper copies, please do not hesitate to let us know, and we will mail them to your school. In addition, our School Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Fiess, will be making virtual visits to many of our component middle schools. Please contact her to set up a date for your site: [sfiess@techvalleyhigh.org](mailto:sfiess@techvalleyhigh.org) or 518-862-4958.

We look forward to working with you throughout the upcoming months. If there is anything we can do to assist you throughout the recruitment season, or if you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. It is our sincere goal to assist you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Hawrylchak".

Dr. Amy Hawrylchak  
*Principal & Chief Academic Officer*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Lee".

Laura Lee  
*Counselor*



November 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Is your child interested in project-based work and emerging technologies? Is he or she looking for a truly unique high school experience? We invite you to apply to Tech Valley High School, a regional public high school program built on the principles of Project-Based Learning and the development of 21st Century skills.

Located on the campus of the Colleges of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, TVHS is uniquely situated to provide access to technology resources and partnerships that students need to excel in the global economy. The school partners with business leaders throughout the region to incorporate true-to-life experiences into all phases of student learning.

We encourage you to contact your child's middle school counselor to receive an application, and to attend one of our information sessions. The schedule is listed below. These events give interested students and their families a chance to meet current students and teachers, learn about the school's curriculum, and explore the challenges and rewards a Tech Valley High School education can offer. This year, all TVHS information sessions will be virtual. Prospective students and their guardians should join the Zoom meeting below to attend.

<https://questar-org.zoom.us/j/97712089981>

Join by phone: +1 646 876 9923 – Meeting ID: 977 1208 9981

- Wednesday Dec 8, 2021 – 6:00-7:30pm at TVHS
- Monday Dec 13, 2021 (virtual) – 6:30-7:30pm on [Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, Jan 5, 2022 – 6:00-7:30pm at TVHS
- Thursday, Jan 13, 2022(virtual) 6:30-7:30pm on [Zoom](#)
- Thursday, Jan 20, 2022 (virtual) 6:30-7:30pm on [Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022 – 6:00-7:30pm at TVHS
- Tuesday, Feb 8, 2022 (virtual) – 6:30-7:30pm on [Zoom](#)
- Thursday, Feb 17, 2022 (virtual) 6:30-7:30pm on [Zoom](#)
- Tuesday, Mar 1, 2022 – 6:00-7:30pm at TVHS



If you would like more information about our school, please visit our website at [www.techvalleyhigh.org](http://www.techvalleyhigh.org) and call us at (518) 862-4960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hugger Fiess".

Sarah Hugger Fiess  
*School Outreach Coordinator*



## **Application and Lottery Process for Admissions**

1. Students and Families should attend an evening information session (either virtual or in person) held by TVHS throughout December, January, and February. In addition, your district may choose to host an on-site or virtual information session during school hours in order to communicate with prospective 8th graders.
2. Each student should meet with their counselor to discuss the application. This is a good time to determine whether TVHS will be a good fit for the student. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions. Our guidance and questions below may be helpful for this meeting.
3. Counselors submit applications to TVHS by March 10, 2022.
4. TVHS conducts a non-selective lottery on March 15, 2022.
5. TVHS confirms program support with the school district then sends the results of the lottery to individual students and families.
6. Students submit intent to attend paperwork to TVHS, including a records release.

## **Guidance for School District Personnel**

Below are suggested guidelines, information, and tools that may be used to assist local schools in assessing the appropriateness of placing students at Tech Valley High School. It is the goal of TVHS to meet the unique needs of all its learners, and we have found that student's tenure and success is greater if they understand the following:

**Project-based learning:** Students are required to work independently and collaboratively in groups. Students will be expected to accept personal responsibility for meeting expectations as a contributing member of project-based teams. At TVHS, we focus on the skills of agency, communication, and collaboration. Students who wish to improve those skills find themselves to be successful at TVHS.

**Academic Requirements:** A prospective student has met all requirements for entry into ninth grade or the grade level he or she is entering in the high school program. A prospective student has demonstrated the ability to graduate with a Regents Diploma.



**Course sequence:** Students will be expected to complete the TVHS course of study, including math and science coursework during all four years of high school. In addition, program completers must accomplish 100 hours of community service across their 4 years at TVHS, and participate in annual experiential learning including I-Term, a career-internship opportunity.

**Students with Disabilities:** Tech Valley High School is a diverse and STEM-focused school and provides students with disabilities with appropriate services including direct consultant teachers and resource room. If additional services will be required, special education services will be billed to the home district. In all cases, students' needs should be identified and communicated with the school.

**The successful TVHS student:**

- Is willing to work collaboratively with other students and adults, including teachers and business partners.
- Is able to participate in classes at grade level with typical classroom or special education support.
- Should be interested in or comfortable with using technology.
- Should be curious.
- Is open to new learning experiences and environments.
- Is willing and interested in taking four years of math and science courses.
- Should be interested in exploring big questions and finding potential solutions to larger problems as part of learning in courses.
- Should understand and accept that there are limited after school activities at TVHS, but that it may be possible to continue to participate in activities through the home district. Participation in these activities may require special arrangements.
- Understands that classmates may live far away.
- Is willing to be an active participant in a culture built on trust, respect, responsibility and stewardship.



## Student Interview Questions

- Why do you want to go to TVHS?
- How do you typically work with other students in group situations? Do you like working in collaborative groups?
- Do you feel comfortable using technology?
- What kinds of classes are you most looking forward to in high school? Why?
- How do you feel about math and science? Would you be willing to take more math and science courses than you're required to take?
- How important are sports or music to your high school career? What arrangements would you need to make to stay involved with the activities that are important to you?

## Course of Study

### 9th Grade

Freshman Seminar (1 credit)  
 Global Humanities  
 - English 9 (1 credit)  
 - Global 9 (1 credit)  
 Bioengineering\* (2 credits)  
 Chinese 1 (1 credit)  
 Physical Education (.5 credit)  
 Algebra (1 credit)  
 OR  
 Geometry/DDP\* (2 credit)

### 10th Grade

Global Humanities  
 - English 10 (1 credit)  
 - Global 10 (1 credit)  
 Environmental Sci (1 credit)  
 Chinese 2 (1 credit)  
 Physical Education (.5 credit)  
 Health (.5 credit)  
 Algebra 2\* (1 credit)  
 OR  
 Geometry/DDP\* (2 credit)

### 11th Grade

Inventing America  
 - English 11 (1 credit)  
 - U.S. History\* (1 credit)  
 Physics (1 credit)  
 Physical Education (.5 credit)  
 Intro to Comp Sci\* (1 credit)  
 Algebra 2 CC\* (1 credit)  
 OR  
 Pre-calculus\* (1 credit)  
 OR  
 Intermediate Algebra (1 cr)

### 12th Grade

English 12\* (1 credit)  
 Chemistry\* (1 credit)  
 PIG & Econ (1 credit)  
 Physical Education (.5 credit)  
 Algebra 2 CC\* (1 credit)  
 OR  
 Precalculus\* (1 credit)  
 OR  
 Statistics\* (1 credit)  
 OR  
 AP Calculus\* (1 credit)

**Electives include:** Anthropology\*, Ethics\*, Intro to Drawing\*, Art Portfolio, 2D/3D Art, Robotics and Electronics, Chinese 3\*, Chinese 4\*, Survey in Nanotechnology\*, Forensics\*, Public Speaking\*, AP Computer Science\*, and online courses in many other subjects.

\*denotes course with college-credit bearing option