

February 26, 2010

Dear Parent,

It's exciting to now offer three options for 8th & 9th grade students and parents in Holland Public Schools. Along with Holland High (traditional, honors, & AP programs) and VR Tech (credit recovery and GED prep at Van Raalte), we have added Holland New Tech (which will feature computer and project based learning as part of the national New Tech Network). Your student has expressed an interest in Holland New Tech or perhaps was recommended as a potential student by a teacher or school counselor for Holland New Tech — and this is why you are receiving this letter.

Holland New Tech will open its doors this coming fall 2010 for incoming 8th and 9th grade students in the former Longfellow School building. Students attending Holland New Tech will be dually enrolled at both Holland High School and Holland New Tech, and later as students in the 11th and 12th grades, they may also be dually enrolled in area colleges, universities, or on-line college classes.

The New Tech High School model brings together high school education, higher education (colleges/universities), and the local business community. Through project-based learning experiences, students will work on 21st Century learning skills that will prepare them well for their future as they transition into the workforce or education beyond high school. Computer-based learning is a major component of this instruction as students use technology to research, study, learn, present, and publish information. Students participating in this program will receive their own personal laptop computer that will be part of their daily learning. New Tech is a high school program resulting in a high school diploma, college credits, and internship opportunities. Graduates from New Tech High Schools across the nation have demonstrated significant success. To learn more about New Tech High Schools, please visit www.hollandpublicschools.org (select New Tech under "Schools") or www.newtechfoundation.org. Please note that the New Tech instructional model is not similar to that provided at VR Tech. VR Tech is a credit recovery learning lab program and students there are not dually enrolled at Holland High.

Interested parents and students in Holland New Tech must apply for enrollment. Space is limited. In order to apply, parents and students must attend one of three informational meetings. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the program itself, the commitment required by students and parents, and have the application process explained.

- Tuesday, March 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Holland High School Media Center)
- Thursday, March 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Holland High School Performing Arts Center)
- Monday, March 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Holland High School Performing Arts Center)

It's wonderful to expand our overall program offerings for our high school students in Holland Public Schools. This gives parents and students more to consider, and this is beneficial as our district builds upon its commitment to help every learner achieve success later in life. If Holland New Tech sounds like a good fit for your student, I hope to see you at one of the upcoming meetings!

Sincerely,

Brian Davis
Superintendent