



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Why are we redesigning the high school?**

The objective is to prepare students for future success in whatever they decide to do. The Virginia Department of Education started the process of redesigning the profile of a Virginia graduate, and Allegheny High School (AHS) believes in being leaders in the movement instead of followers. AHS wants its students to be adaptable! This means that students have the critical thinking skills (the ability to think about working together to create the best solution and solve the problem), emotional intelligence (get the job done regardless or in spite of their emotions), and continuous self improvement (know how to get and use the most up-to-date strategies and technology by being a lifelong learner).

### **Why are we using the New Tech Network?**

The New Tech Network has the resources and supports already in place to assist staff and help all AHS students be prepared for the world regardless of their path, inspire them to want to come to school, and instill in them the desire for lifelong learning. The goal is for students to leave Allegheny High School with the desire and know-how to be their best in all that they do.

### **What is the New Tech Network philosophy called agency?**

Agency is the ability of a student to display a growth mindset, grit, and ownership over their learning. Arguably, the ability to digest and analyze information critically is only important if a student can persevere through the challenges associated with the journey of thinking critically, and can then act upon this newfound knowledge in a way that brings meaning to the world around them. Students are provided with the skills to rebound from setbacks and build confidence as they welcome new challenges.

### **What is the plan to get there?**

The plan is to use Project and/or Problem Based Learning to help students gain the skills they need for success today and throughout their entire lives. AHS has been working in faculty led committees to put a plan in place for the implementation of the New Tech program. The implementation will begin with 9th and 10th grades next year and follow with 11th and 12th grades the following two years. Classes will

be integrated, such as Spanish and Physical Education/ Health classes, that combine two subjects and will be co-taught by two teachers. There will be stand-alone courses that will be Project/Problem Based in their approach to the subject as well.

**Are all classes expected to do Project and/or Problem Based Learning?**

All classes are expected to implement Project/ Problem Based Learning. Standalone classes will be required to do a minimum of 3 projects per semester with two projects incorporating outside/community partnerships and/or resources. Integrated classes will be required to do a minimum of 6 projects for the school year with three projects incorporating outside/community partnerships and/or resources. Integrated classes are co-taught, 2 blocks in 1 semester or 1 block year long, depending on student need, and stand-alone classes are 1 block 1 semester unless otherwise prescribed by the class.

**Are all teachers expected to go to staff development training with the New Tech Network?**

The goal is to have all teachers that have 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade students attend the New Tech staff development this summer. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers may be included in the staff development this summer should space be available on the charter bus. All teachers will be trained over the next three years. The staff attending this summer's training will leave July 11 and return late in the evening on July 16 or early morning on July 17 depending the bus driver's availability.

**July 12-16, 2018 St. Louis, MO**

**July 12 & 13 – Pre-conference training and programs**

**July 14 & 15 – NTAC General Conference**

**July 16 – by invitation**

**Who will be the lead teachers for this Program?**

The two lead teachers will be Ms. Jackie Almarode and Mrs. Michelle Reid. They will attend a training from February 26 through March 1 in El Paso, Texas., along with Principal Dwayne Ross.

**Are all students required to take an Integrated Class?**

All students in grades 9 and 10 shall participate in at least one integrated class the first year of the program. AHS will implement one class in grade 9, one class in grade 10 for the 2018-2019 school year, and then one class in grade 11 and one class in grade 12 for the 2019-2020 school year. All students will be introduced to Project Based Learning in all of their classes at the high school. Courses will be monitored through lesson plans, observations, lesson plan feedback, and evaluations.

**Can other classes work together?**

Non-integrated teachers can always have combined group projects with different classes that can also include several grade levels. AHS staff is encouraged to work together to develop cross curriculum work before the implementation of the New Tech program.

**Are teachers still required to have lesson plans that covers all of the best practices criteria?**

Teachers will still be expected to complete lesson plans that include all the aspects of the lesson plan criteria, but the way teachers are doing instruction may be different than how teachers have done instruction in the past for various classes. Anyone reviewing a teacher's lesson plans will still be able to

see the teacher’s plan for any given day of the school year. The teacher might be the facilitator one day, and the next day doing direct instruction. As teachers grow and develop professionally with Project/Problem Based Learning, best practices will continue to grow and evolve. This will be reflected in lesson plans, as well in how administration conducts classroom visits and lesson plan reviews.

**Will teachers get resources and/or funds to do projects?**

Instructional needs will be met. AHS will review staff needs and wants but will work with staff within reason on any project. Large expenses may require grant funding.

**Can integrated classes be offered in one semester?**

Yes, depending on scheduling. Two blocks in one semester could work for an integrated class. This will require 6 projects in one semester with a double blocked integrated class.

**What about students that fail one or two parts of an integrated class?**

Not all classes will be integrated, so if a student fails an integrated class, then he/she will move into one or two non-integrated classes. This could also mean a blended learning of an online course.

**What about students with schedule conflicts that don’t allow them to take an integrated class?**

Ideally, ALL students will participate integrated course, but there might be a few students that have scheduling conflicts that require them to take stand alone Project and/or Problem Based course.

**Parents and students information meeting Dates:**

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
3-Jan-18	03 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 12:00 pm	12:00PM	AHS
3-Jan-18	03 JAN 18 - Parent Meeting at AHS at 6:00 pm	6:00PM	AHS
8-Jan-18	08 JAN 18- Current AHS students Class meetings	8:30 AM - 3:30PM	AHS
10-Jan-18	10 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 9:00 am	9:00 AM	AHS
10-Jan-18	10 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 12:00 pm	12:00 PM	AHS
10-Jan-18	10 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 6:00pm	6:00 PM	AHS
29-Jan-18	29 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 9:00 am	9:00 AM	AHS
29-Jan-18	29 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 12:00 pm	12:00 PM	AHS
29-Jan-18	29 JAN 18 - Parent meeting at AHS at 6:00 pm	6:00 PM	AHS
TBD- JAN 18	TBD- JAN 18 - 8th Grade assembly during Falcon Time at the Middle School	CMS TBD	CMS
21-Feb-18	21 FEB 18 at 6:30 - for the students coming in rising 9th Graders (Students & Parents)	6:30 PM	AHS
19-Feb-18	Rising 12th Graders Feb 19- March 23	8:-00 AM - 4:00:00 PM	Counselor's Office
26-Feb-18	Rising 11th Graders Feb 26- March 2	8:-00 AM - 4:00:00 PM	Counselor's Office
5-Mar-18	Rising 10th Graders March 5 - 9	8:-00 AM - 4:00:00 PM	Counselor's Office
12-Mar-18	Rising 9th Graders March 12- 16	8:-00 AM - 4:00:00 PM	Counselor's Office

**How will staff receive information and communication?**

The faculty will continue to be involved through faculty meetings, common plannings, and team leader meetings. Communication among the faculty and staff at Alleghany High School is a daily part of teaching. AHS is a professional learning community, and that means communication is a priority, be it about student needs, collaboration on lessons, or major changes such as the shift to Project/Problem Based Learning. AHS has the professional tools in place to facilitate communication and will be certain to make the best use of them going forward to ensure the success of Problem/Project Based Learning.

**When will teachers receive training in ECHO?**

Teachers will be trained on the use of the Echo system during the spring 2018 semester. The staff development will occur during Technology Tuesdays and Common Plannings. "Echo supports project-based learning and features an innovative gradebook that aligns to the deeper learning skills students will need in college and career. Digital tools, cultivated and aligned content, and a community of shared learning are integrated to create a powerful and innovative platform to support student and adult learning. Teachers, students, and parents at New Tech schools use Echo on a daily basis to access course resources, exemplar projects, project plans, assignments and an extensive library of instructional resources for teachers. Educators have the opportunity to create projects and access project and resource libraries."

**Is this for all students?**

Project/Problem Based Learning is available and designed for all students, including those who participate in the Governor’s school, Jackson River Technical Center, and Special Education programs.

Teachers

will continue to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of the individual students, as they have done successfully for years. Our redesign of Alleghany High School and the introduction of the Project/Problem Based program is designed to teach every student the life skills they need to succeed in a changing world - critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.



## New Tech Network School Model

