

# Everett New Tech High breaks ground



Staff gathered with school district leaders to cut the ribbon to commemorate the opening of the Everett New Tech High program, at an open house for students and parents. EVNTH is an innovative program that focuses on projects and service learning as a way to help present key concepts. L to R: Math Science teacher Cynthia Balthazar, Earth math teacher Sheila Orr, American studies teacher Jacquelyn Surdenik, Earth math teacher Scott Goodman, magnet schools coordinator Delsa Chapman, school board president Peter Spadafore, eastern hemisphere teachers Daylyn Taylor and Timothy Walker.

8th grader Jonae Hawkins works on her Earth math project. New Tech incorporates technology use and group work throughout their curriculum. All students have access to laptops for projects that go beyond the textbook.



BRIANNA BILLARD

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## What is New Tech?

**Chase Rapin**  
*Reporter*

There are many changes at Everett this year, and one of them everyone has noticed: the integration of 7th and 8th graders into the building. These students are part of a program called New Tech High.

Focus Teacher Mitch Foster, who previously taught physics at Everett, says New Tech is a nationwide network that has close to 200 magnet schools around the country.

“[New Tech is about] learning how to use technology, while being able to work well with others,” said 7th grader Briana Hinojosa.

Foster said New Tech is about reimagining education. This new way of learning involves forming partnerships with other classmates. Students are encouraged to ask other classmates for help before they ask a teacher.

“New Tech students have lots of project assignments,” said 7th grader Abbie DeLoon.

In order to make the projects work, every New Tech student has access to a laptop.

“It’s all about project-based learning, and getting a one-to-one technology ratio with students,” said Foster.

The New Tech program is funded by a federal grant, and encourages this style of teaching to get students motivated about gaining an education. Their website states

that “New Tech students enroll in college at a higher rate than the national average.”

Apart from sharing the same building, New Tech students don’t have much involvement in the activities upperclassmen get to enjoy, such as sports. Some 8th graders feel like New Tech students should be allowed to participate in high school sports, but upperclassmen don’t feel as open to the idea.

“I have no problem with the middle schoolers joining high school teams, yet I don’t feel like they should be able to play on the high school basketball and football teams,” said senior Anthonnee Caston. “I feel like the 7th and 8th graders will be bullied or put down more in those sports than others.”

When asked, most upperclassmen said they couldn’t tell the difference between underclassmen and New Tech students.

Even though New Tech High students aren’t allowed to play on the high school teams, they are still allowed to attend games and school functions, such as pep rallies and homecoming.

“Some days I feel like we’re a part of Everett,” says DeLoon.

Either way, the New Tech kids are here to stay, and are continuing to take a different approach towards learning. Written communication and oral presentation skills are embedded in every assignment says Foster.

“We are trying to prepare people for the world,” said Foster.

## EVNTH students commemorate 9/11

**Kaley McEnhill**  
*Online Editor*

Over the years, there have been many ceremonies to remember the tragic events of 9/11. At Everett, history teacher John Zielinski is helping New Tech High students learn about the day.

Zielinski put together a remembrance ceremony especially tailored to the New Tech High students.

“We’re trying to teach the 7th and 8th graders about 9/11 because they weren’t alive at the time,” said Zielinski.

The event featured guest speakers and per-

formers, like the Lansing Police Department Color Guard, guitar music by Aaron Bales, and a special appearance by Jeremy Ramirez, a distinguished alumni class of 2003. Ramirez accepted the plaque for Everett Distinguished Alumni Hall Of Fame.

New Tech High students said that they enjoyed the program, and that it was informational.

“I learned that 9/11 didn’t just impact New York, it impacted the whole nation,” said 8th grader Julia Tomlinski.

A lot of students said they were moved and saddened by the ceremony. Some said they wanted to go and listen to all the information that was

getting put out there about 9/11.

“Instead of running from 9/11, we ran towards it,” said 8th grader Da’ron Alexander.

Almost 200 students attended the ceremony, which lasted about 20 minutes. Zielinski said he was very happy with the ceremony.

“It was incredible, all of our guests did very well and the New Tech students were respectful,” said Zielinski.

Zielinski has been doing tributes for 19 years now and he said it is very important to him.

“I keep trying to teach Everett students about patriotism and traditions,” said Zielinski. “[These ceremonies are] part of my Everett being as a teacher.”

## Teachers excited for innovative program

**Salma Torres**  
*Social Media Editor*

There are four new teachers at Everett in the New Tech area this year, and they said they are enjoying the unique program.

7th grade English teacher Daylyn Taylor taught elementary and middle school classes at Pattengill for 15 years before coming to New Tech.

“I found in those 15 years, I preferred teaching middle school, and I found [the idea of] New Tech interesting,” said Taylor.

Taylor said she enjoys what the New Tech program stands for.

“I’m very excited about the project-based learning. Technology in the classroom is an exciting new way to teach,” said Taylor.

Taylor, along with the other New Tech staff, are preparing their students for their high school career, and their future.

“We’re preparing them to be successful in their future, teaching them to be trustworthy, and successful for when New Tech expands in the future,” said Taylor. “We’re teaching them to become role models because we focus on trust, respect and responsibility.”

Taylor says that New Tech’s main focus is those three things.

Leigh Schafer has taught at Everett, Hill, Pattengill, and Eastern. Now she is a 7th grade New Tech science teacher, back at Everett to help start the program.

“I want my students to be advocates for their own learning, I want them to understand that they are responsible for what they get out

of school,” said Schafer.

8th grade social studies teacher Emmanuel Kamm came from Eastern, where he taught world history and psychology.

“Being a New Tech teacher is very rewarding and challenging,” said Kamm.

Kamm wants his students to learn throughout the year and wants them to pick up life skills, as well.

“I want to see my students accept more challenges when it comes to their education,” said Kamm. “I hope that they can rely on the skills that they learned while in New Tech.”

All of the teachers had very positive thoughts on the program, and said they liked their new positions.

“This is a great program, I’m learning right along with the kids,” said Schafer.