High Tech High Schools—Education Design Kit

Projects typically feature many—or likely, all—of the following elements. Some beg to be at the beginning of a project, others are likely found towards the end, and others are used throughout.

Project Launch	
An engaging, active experience with multiple entry points for diverse learners that invites multiple perspectives and fosters diverse, innovative thinking.	*My ideas…*

Essential Questions	
Open-ended questions—relevant to academia, students' lives and the world beyond school—expressed in student-friendly language and encourage diverse thinking and further inquiry.	*My ideas…*

Brainstorming	
Students and teachers collaborate to generate and share important ideas and to save and post their creativity, plans, concepts, suggestions, questions and more for future inspiration.	*My ideas…*

Critique	
Students and teachers use structures to regularly analyze work samples for meaning, the principles that contribute to their effectiveness, to identify important learning targets.	*My ideas…*

Drafting & Revision	
Students and teachers generate multiple iterations of their work informed by critique, models, or instruction, in a trajectory towards increasingly meaningful and beautiful work.	*My ideas…*

Exhibition	
Bring student work into the "real world" to share work with important community members and to foster meaning by putting student work in the position of serving others.	*My ideas…*

Assessment	
Projects lend themselves to multiple forms of assessment, and assessment is informative, reflective and collaborative.	*My ideas…*

Reflection	
Students and teachers look at their work and ask questions designed to foster thoughtful, deliberate practice.	*My ideas…*

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Throughlines
Concepts deliberately woven into the fabric of HTH projects & practices.

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Voice & Choice
Projects are designed to include student, parent & community voice in the co-design of educational experiences

- How are students included in the project planning processes?
- How are parents invited into the various processes of the project?
- How are community members or experts used in planning, critique or revision of student work?
- How might students, parents, community members and experts be included in assessment?

Equity & Diversity
Projects are designed to provide access and challenge for all students to engage in meaningful work. Projects are designed to value a wide range of perspectives, skills, knowledge, content, and products.

- How will struggling students access this work?
- How will all students find moments of challenge in this work?
- How are meaningful connections created for all students with peers, experts and teachers?
- What are different ways in which students may shine in this project?

Reflective Practice
Projects are designed to foster thoughtful, deliberate practice.

- How are opportunities created for students and teachers to collect their thoughts about their work?
- How does this project foster collegial relationships designed to help students and teachers meditate on their experiences?
- How might reflections be incorporated in assessment?
- How are reflections incorporated in the thoughtful development of deliberate practice?

Passion
Projects are designed to tap into students' and teachers' personal questions, values, and passions.

- Why is this work important?
- What makes this work authentic?
- How might students and teachers engage in deep inquiry through this project?
- Where will the project live after the exhibition is over?