

E-TECH MONTHLY

September 21, 2014

Ms. Mohammed guides students through a text annotation activity using a document camera during the first days of school. In 9th grade, students are working on reading and annotating texts across classes, and are learning to mark up the text to highlight important passages, record questions, make note of unfamiliar words, etc.



Welcome back to school

Reflecting on Year 1, charging ahead into Year 2

By Hope Barter

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you back to school and invite you to spend some time reading our first edition of *E-Tech Monthly* - a publication intended to keep our parents, families, and partners informed about what's happening at Energy Tech.

We opened our doors this fall to 232 students in grades 9 and 10 - chosen out of a pool of over 1,000 applicants. They were greeted by a team of 25 staff members, including 11 new to the school, who were selected from hundreds of applicants. We are confident that our team this year is capable of moving mountains, and we look forward

to using this publication to keep you updated about continued successes.

Over the summer, we hosted summer enrichment activities, thanks to the generosity of CUNY Early College Initiative, our industry partners, and our college partner - LaGuardia. Students were offered challenging math and engineering classes, which resulted in tremendous gains on August Regents examinations and a student-led presentation about solar power. Through Liberty Partnership, students also took SAT prep classes, additional engineering coursework, a weekend

swimming class, and they even saw *Pippin* on Broadway.

We are thrilled to expand work with our partners this year in the areas of mentoring and job shadowing, and we will also expand college course offerings. We are excited for our continued partnership with Solar One, which brings project-based learning about energy and environmentalism into STEM classes.

More than anything, we are excited to share this work with a new cohort of students and families, and we look forward to another busy student recruitment season ahead this fall!

IN THIS EDITION

Principal's Welcome.....	1
Monthly Summary.....	2
Glows & Grows.....	2
Giving Thanks.....	2
Classroom Corner.....	3-4
Upcoming Events.....	5
Announcements.....	5-6

What's happening at Energy Tech

At a glance

Monthly Summary

Energy Tech staff worked hard through the summer to provide enrichment for 10th grade students, and also to plan instruction for 9th graders. We hosted a 2-day new student orientation at LaGuardia Community College, and new staff also joined us for a week before school started to learn more about our unique school community. Our opening days of school have run smoothly and students are quickly adjusting to new schedules and a new environment. Students are now using classrooms on both the ground and first floors, including a brand new state-of-the-art science laboratory and a newly renovated college-style lecture hall. As we continue to add new students and staff, we are also adding new technology and new work spaces.

Please review the Upcoming Events and Announcements section of this newsletter for exciting information about the weeks ahead. There is so much happening at ETHS in Year 2, including our first college class - HUP 102 - which will be offered to 10th graders throughout the year. We had a kick-off event for clubs and activities last week, and students are charging ahead into challenging college-ready coursework. Job Shadowing and mentoring programs will soon start, too.

Parent Association elections will take place soon, and we are excited to have increased parent membership on various teams and committees, as well as volunteers for our extracurricular program. We are also pleased to share a new online grade book for students and parents to use to stay informed about student progress - PowerSchool. Additionally, our newly-designed website will re-launch over the next few weeks. Stay tuned for a very busy month ahead!

Glows & Grows

Our 10th grade students have been kind and welcoming toward 9th grade students, offering support finding classrooms and reading schedules. Our 9th graders, also, have been

exceptionally courteous and open to new friends and experiences. We are so happy to see close friendships developing, to see students helping one another in class, and to see our staff developing positive relationships with students.

We are pleased to report that our first group of students taking the HUP 102 college class have been praised by their professor for their maturity and insightful class participation. We are also appreciative of the tone of "seriousness" that you will find in our classrooms thus far. In classes, we have observed students diligently taking notes, working productively in groups, and reading books when finished with work.

We hope that our students - with support from their families and friends - continue to work on:

- Putting full effort into all homework tasks - please use the planners that were provided last week to record all assignments.
- Coming to school on time and in dress code each day. Shirts should be plain white, light grey, or navy blue - no print, stripes, etc. Otherwise, students may wear our school shirts. School starts promptly at 8:35am. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Alvarez (nalvarez@energytechhs.org).

Giving Thanks

- To Con Edison for providing our 10th graders with job shadowing opportunities this fall
- To National Grid, Con Edison, and LaGuardia Community College for providing mentors for our students this year
- To all of our parents for making sure students were well-prepared for the first days of school, and for those who attended summer orientations and the HUP 102 college course orientation
- To Liberty Partnership for providing exciting Saturday STEM and other extracurricular opportunities
- To Solar One for another exciting year of projects and learning ahead

Useful Links:

<http://www.energytechschool.org>

Our website will soon re-launch - stay tuned!

<https://arisparentlink.org/parentlink>

Find us on Facebook - Twitter, Instagram coming soon!

Monthly Reads:

[Interesting blog about parenting teenagers](#)

[Former Mayor Bloomberg references ETHS!](#)

Check out this interview in which former NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg talks about his administration's role in the opening of Energy Tech, as well as the school's unique model.

Monthly Wish List:

This September and October, we would love to have some volunteers for new student recruitment and clubs and activities. If interested, please contact the staff members listed:

- Robotics, Mr. Soares, lsoares@energytechhs.org
- Flag football/rugby, Mr. Petrocelli and Mr. Ley, lpetrocelli@energytechhs.org
- Recruitment Fairs/Open Houses, Ms. Quinones, dquinones@energytechhs.org
- Something not on this list that you would like to help with? Please contact Ms. Alvarez, nalvarez@energytechhs.org

Classroom Corner

A glimpse into our classes

Classes are in session at Energy Tech, and our staff and students alike are hard at work. Below, you will find brief summaries of what's going on in our classrooms, as well as contact information to learn more from each department. We hope you will join us for our first Open School on September 17th - there is so much more we hope to share with you this fall.

English Language Arts

In the first unit of 9th grade English (ELA), students are introduced to skills, practices, and routines that will be used on a regular basis in the ELA classroom throughout the year: close reading, annotating text, collaborative conversation, and evidence-based writing. Students will learn an approach to close reading that develops their ability to critically analyze texts for deep meaning and collect and analyze evidence for use in writing and discussion. Thus far, they have analyzed song lyrics, poetry, and a speech by President Obama in order to determine how a central idea is developed throughout the course of a text. They will be applying these central ideas to short stories by authors including Langston Hughes, Gary Soto, and Jon Hassler. **Instructors:** Ms. Bartelucci (abartelucci@energytechhs.org), Ms. Mohammed (tmohammed@energytechhs.org), Ms. Del Castillo (mdelcastillo@energytechhs.org)

10th grade English students are currently exploring the complicated relationships between culture, conflict, and power. Using excerpts from memoirs by authors from around the globe, 10th grade students are examining the way cultures conflict with each other, and in turn affect people from around the world. Through these methods, these students will be able to develop an informed argument about the role culture and conflict play in shaping an individual. Some of the texts they are engaging with include *Lord of the Flies*, *Brave New World*, *Night*, and many more. **Instructors:** Ms. Radcliffe (aradcliffe@energytechhs.org), Ms. De Marco (ademarco@energytechhs.org)

Mathematics

In Algebra I, students are currently working through a review unit to cover some foundational skills that were not as strong on the baseline assessment given over the summer. After that, we will be moving quickly into a short patterns unit, in which students will get to think more about problem solving and different ways to represent mathematical ideas. We are following the recommended Common Core curriculum, and we are working closely with other early college and college-focused high schools to develop challenging problems and tasks. This year our department will also be focusing closely on constructing mathematical arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others through discussions. Finally, our teachers were trained in Bootstrap over the summer, and we hope to integrate some basic coding into the course. Over the next few weeks, students will also start to use an online mathematics program called ALEKS, in addition to Delta Math. **Instructors:** Mr. Folwell (mfolwell@energytechhs.org), Ms. Kaneris (dkaneris@energytechhs.org), Mr. Long (tlong@energytechhs.org)

Geometry class is also off to a strong start. In the current unit on the Tools of Geometry, students are learning about the basic building blocks of the subject-- points, lines, and planes, but also definitions, properties and postulates. Sometimes this can be complicated, even with relatively simple ideas (ask your student about how we defined "window" and "triangle" in class for an example of this!) but we are focusing on crafting geometric language that is correct, precise, and short. Within the next few weeks, students will also begin their work on the ALEKS online learning platform, which will help ensure all our students are mastering key geometric concepts. **Instructors:** Mr. Davis (gdavis@energytechhs.org), Mr. Long (tlong@energytechhs.org)

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ONLINE GRADE BOOK: POWERSCHOOL

Energy Tech is pleased to announce that, through its partnership with CUNY Early College Initiative, we will be using PowerSchool as a platform to communicate grades and progress to students and parents.

Teachers will work with students to set up student accounts during the week of September 15th, and will send home information to set up parent accounts.

Additionally, we will host training events and workshops - including one at Open School on September 17th. Please contact Ms. Alvarez with questions.

<https://earlycollege.powerschool.com/public/>

Mr. Petrocelli helps a student in pre-engineering as he picks up bridge-building materials for his group. 9th grade students in this course are learning the basics of engineering design principles. Other 9th grade students are programmed this fall into College and Career Foundations. In February, they will switch classes.



Chemistry

In Chemistry class, students have started looking at how important measurement and units are not only in Chemistry, but also in other aspects of life in general. We have looked at real world examples of how even the slightest miscommunication in measuring procedures can have tremendous impacts on the work of scientists - including one \$500,000,000 loss for NASA. We have also been learning about how we are going to utilize our brand new science lab effectively and appropriately. We have been leaning about procedures, such as using measuring equipment appropriately and how to use significant figures to report our data, in order to fall in line with what is expected as members of the scientific community. Once we get these foundational skills mastered, students will be prepared to embark on a wonderful year of scientific inquiry filled with a tremendous amount of new knowledge that will help them see the world in a new light. This course culminates in a Regents examination with a laboratory requirement. **Instructors:** Ms. Garcia (agarcia@energytechhs.org), Mr. Long (tlong@energytechhs.org)

Biology - The Living Environment

Living environment students are learning what it means to be a scientist in their first few weeks at Energy Tech. On their very first day they were discussing what happens as scientists gain new information about the world, and they have since delved deeper into the scientific method. Several days a week they have class in a very professional lab, and in their first full week of school, they have had the opportunity to use some of the brand new lab equipment. In the near future, students will have their first formal lab report, and we will soon begin to explore the building blocks of life! This course culminates in a Regents examination with a laboratory requirement. **Instructors:** Ms. Yablon (cyablon@energytechhs.org), Ms. Del Castillo (mdelcastillo@energytechhs.org)

Global Studies

10th grade students at Energy Tech are taking the 2-year Global Studies course in one year. They have this class for two periods each day, and are expected to complete a good amount of reading and writing outside of class time. The course will culminate in a Regents examination. During the first weeks students delved into the Neolithic Revolution. Students read a variety of secondary and primary sources to learn about hunter-gatherer societies, the invention of



agriculture, and early civilizations. Students studied the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, China, India, and Egypt. Topics such as writing systems, belief systems, early technology, legal systems and social classes were explored in depth through primary sources such as the Code of Hammurabi and the Epic of Gilgamesh. Students worked on finding textual evidence to support claims. **Instructors:** Mr. Lutterbein (blutterbein@energytechhs.org), Ms. Fried (jfried@energytechhs.org), Ms. De Marco (ademarco@energytechhs.org)

Career and Technical Education

All students at Energy Tech participate in College and Career Foundations and pre-engineering courses before they begin to take technical courses at the college level, and before they participate in internships. This year, we are offering a wide range of project-based learning to give students a better idea of the opportunities available in engineering and in the energy industry. Classes are supplemented with field trips, guest speakers, job shadowing, industry mentoring, and more. **Instructors:** Mr. Ley (sley@energytechhs.org), Mr. Soares (lsoares@energytechhs.org)

STUDENT LIFE

Students participated in our first annual Clubs & Activities Fair during lunch on September 10th, 2014. Some of the activities represented include:

- Flag football and rugby
- Morning basketball
- Intramural soccer
- Robotics
- Community Service
- Green Team
- Arts & Crafts
- Dance
- Student Government
- Saturday Digital Photography, Salsa Dancing, and more

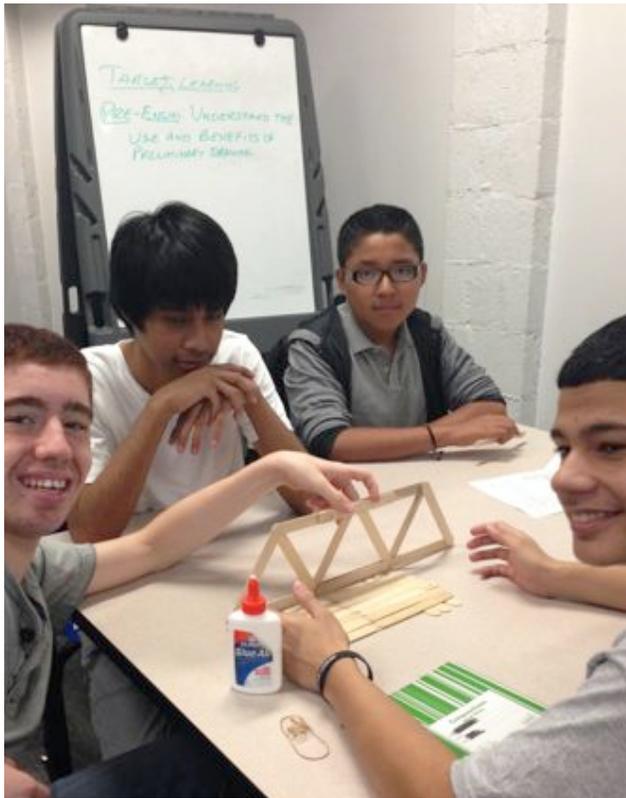
More information will be sent home soon.

Physical Education

In PE, we are working on the basics of flag rugby, as well as developing drills and warm-up routines. On 9/30/14, we will be joined by professional rugby players in class, and tryouts for fall sports will take place soon. We will play in weekend tournaments through November. Stay tuned!

Advisement

All students are assigned an advisor for morning check-in from 8:35-8:45. In addition, 9th graders meet for Freshman Seminar one time per week to build community and prepare for this rigorous program. 10th graders will participate in mentoring on a monthly basis with professionals from our partnerships.



Upcoming Events & Announcements

Dates to Note

This will be our first regular instructional week. Please make note of the following events:

- **Week of September 15th:** Clubs and Activities begin - details to follow
- **Tuesday, September 16th, 2:45pm:** HUP 102 students take field trip to college to pick up ID cards
- **Wednesday, September 17th, 5-8pm:** Open School and Parent Conferences
- **Saturday/Sunday, September 20th/21st:** NYC High School Recruitment Fair, Brooklyn Tech HS
- **Tuesday, September 30th, evening:** Con Edison Job Shadowing Kick-off Event
- **Tuesday, September 30th, evening:** Prospective Student Open House (for 8th grade students and families)
- **Tuesday, September 23rd, 4:30-7:30pm, B10:** First PA meeting of the year; PA Executive Board elections
- **Thursday/Friday, September 25th/26th:** Rosh Hashanah, no school for staff or students
- **Friday, October 3rd:** First Town Hall Assembly for students - this is a "business casual attire" day
- **Thursday, October 9th, 10am-noon:** Prospective Student Open House (for 8th grade students and families)
- **Wednesday, October 15th:** 10th grade students take the PSAT
- **Wednesday, October 15th:** Next *E-Tech Monthly* edition

"Every school is unique, but only a very small group of schools in the country provides a unique set of opportunities - like an AAS degree, career mentoring, and internships - that, by design, make a college degree and a career within reach for all students."

Brian Donnelly, Deputy Director, CUNY Early College Initiative

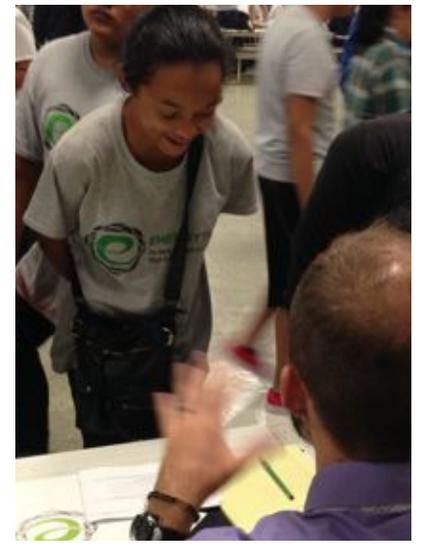
MONTHLY CHALLENGE

This week, we challenge our families and partners to work with and encourage students to try at least one extracurricular activity, such as a sport, club, or academic support session. In addition to getting good grades, colleges and employers look for applicants who are well-rounded and who possess the social, communication, and other leadership skills necessary to navigate team settings and manage busy schedules.

Joining activities is an important way to make new friends, build lifetime hobbies and interests, and unwind after busy school days. Students should also be adding these activities to their student resumes in College and Career Foundations!

Important Announcements

- If your child requires a 504 plan, needs to take medication while at school, or has an allergy, please contact the school as soon as possible to complete the required paperwork. The school medical team is in the process of going through student records, and updated physical and immunization information is required. Energy Tech will be sending out immunization, vision, and hearing testing reminders soon.
- Student ID cards will be generated and distributed over the next two weeks. Thank you for your patience.
- For more dates and announcements, please e-mail Ms. Alvarez (nalvarez@energytechhs.org) to be added to the ETHS parent calendar and e-mail distribute list.
- We have noticed that some students are carrying too many school supplies in their book bags. Students should not be carrying heavy items, like textbooks and multiple notebooks between home and school. If you are concerned about the amount of "stuff" in your child's book bag, please consult with his/her teachers.
- Please fill out your lunch form on paper or online as soon as possible. This is needed not only for lunch, but also to secure important funding for the school. <https://www.applyforlunch.com/Application>
- Please make sure you have completed and returned (2) emergency cards (blue/orange cards) to the school.
- Energy Tech will be hosting a monthly morning "Parent Coffee Hour" - please look forward to more information about this soon.



ENERGYTECH
An Early College and Career
High School

SAFE KNOWN VALUED CHALLENGED SUPPORTED ACCOUNTABLE EMPOWERED

“I can firmly say that this school did not meet my standards on what I personally think makes a good school a “good school”—it exceeded them completely. The feeling that I get when I walk into Energy Tech every morning is a feeling of comfort and care, just like the way a family can. So far this community has acted like nothing but a family to each other with respect happiness and comfort and hopefully it can stay like that.”

“I am very comfortable in my school surroundings. I like how everyone interacts with each other and communicates respectfully. I’m also very impressed that in all my classes it’s very easy to focus because you’re not easily distracted. There are a lot of opportunities for you to be involved in some sort of sport or activity.”

“High school has definitely exceeded my expectations. To be honest, I was kind of skeptical of Energy Tech, but now I love this school. It’s everything that I have ever wanted in a high school. From the teachers, to the students, everyone is so nice and open. I think the best decision I could have made was to join the Energy Tech community.”

“What I really like about my HS is my teachers really respect me and help me learn.”

Incoming 9th
grade students
were asked to
reflect upon their
first week at
Energy Tech
High School.
Here are some
of our favorite
quotes...

“I’ve attended high school for one week. I am amazed how the students treat each other. The 10th graders are nicer than I expected. The staff members are really nice and understanding. I like that the school has after-school clubs; you won’t feel left out of activities. I am really happy to attend this high school.”

“My first week at Energy Tech HS was awesome...not even one person is mean. I like Energy Tech because it is a small school, less kids, great teachers—I love this high school!”

“Since I’ve been in high school for a week, I’m impressed by the work and the teachers make you understand the work better.”

“So far in high school I have learned that no matter how hard life is, I have to keep working hard to pursue excellence.”

“My impressions on my first week of high school would have to be tiring but worth it. It’s definitely what I expected. My mom always said reality hits you the most once high school starts; she was totally right. If you want to be successful, you have to work towards it. And that’s exactly what I plan on doing! They might push you to do more, but you grow to realize it’s for your own benefit at the end of the day.”