

Welcome to Renaissance Academy! Our staff is excited to begin our fourth year as another school of choice for southern Indiana. As we look forward to our first graduating class, our learners continue to work in a model where they are able to demonstrate leadership and growth in learning. We have a fantastic opportunity to introduce to our community the PBL model and add another piece to the puzzle by increasing student achievement for our young people. We are pleased that two learners had the chance to present work at the National New Tech Conference in St. Louis, MO this past July. This demonstrates some of the great opportunities that are possible for our students.

As we work toward our first class graduating, our learners have the opportunity of earning a New Tech Seal requiring 100 total hours of community service, earning 12 dual college credit courses and completing 50 hours of an internship. This recognition stands out to demonstrate the college and career readiness of those who earn the seal. It is an exciting and unique accomplishment for a high school student. We are proud they are able to earn this distinction.

Many people have asked about new tech students' academic performance. I am pleased to offer information from the New Tech Network (NTN) on this. The New Tech Network's *Student Outcomes Report 2017* details some important information regarding these questions. A brief synopsis of this report indicates the following: new tech students graduate from high school and enroll in college at a rate higher than the national average; the college persistence rate is 83%; and new tech students grow 61% more in higher order thinking skills between freshman and senior years of high school than the traditional comparison group. This data has great implications for what a new tech environment can provide for students.

Please remember parents/guardians can view student data via Infinite Campus and also in Echo (the management system for new tech schools). Feel free to contact us about any questions you may have about accessing either of these systems. They are there to help you understand the progress your learner is making.

There are many extra-curricular opportunities at RA. It is our hope that all students take part in some type of club, organization, or athletic sport to help them become well-rounded individuals. Our main focus is academics but there are other important aspects of life, too. Participating in extra-curricular opportunities gives each individual a chance to become part of a collective group that can focus on something unique to that group. These experiences help raise our sense of community and service and provide enrichment. . Learners can participate in Key Club, the school's marketing group or be elected as a learner advocate, to name a few.

Thank you for visiting our website. If you have questions about Renaissance Academy, please feel free to call or email. We will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Brian Allred, Ph.D.
Director