

NEW TECH - A step forward into a new era of learning



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What 's so great about the Cougar New Tech program?" This is the question that, as a parent of a New Tech student, I have been asked many times. My response, "Well, Everything!"

Trust, Respect and Responsibility are the core of Cougar New Tech Entrepreneurial Academy. Through technology, learners complete group projects just as they would in a professional work environment. Courses are taught by facilitators who create projects from each standard-based subject that mimic real life experiences. Learners communicate with each other, working together to complete projects. These are the skills that are vital in a real world work environment.

A ribbon cutting was held on Sunday, August 4, beginning with a welcome by the Cougar New Tech School Leader, Dr. Melissa Crosby. Dr. Crosby introduced the facilitators who will be teaching New Tech students this year along with special guest Superintendent of Education, Leila Williams; Walterboro Mayor, Bill Young; and Colleton County High School Principal, Cliff Warren. Following a brief dialogue from each guest, the ribbon cutting was held in the hallway near the stairwell leading up to the Cougar New Tech classrooms. The ribbon was cut by student Ty-Shon George.



Students attended the academy on August 5, 6 and 7, where they began learning about the new journey they would embark upon this year. Students were given instruction on using school laptops, working in groups, and the new assignment system they will be implementing. Wednesday was a parent/student day where parents took on the role of students, as each parent sat in front of the same laptops to learn what their children learned in the previous two days. Parents were also certified in the district volunteer training program, which is required to complete the 10 volunteer hours each parent must complete during the school year. At the end of the day, parents were sent back into the auditorium to watch the students do their very first project presentation of the year. The performances were recorded so that, at the end of the year, students will be given the opportunity to compare the growth and maturity that has taken place during the year. The skits were based on trust, respect and responsibility.

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