

**Some helpful information about the NEW TECHNOLOGY HIGH\_SCHOOL System**  
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The principal "New Tech" idea is to put students in a cooperative learning atmosphere where they learn how to solve problems through developing their own learning ability. The students become the owners of their new learning - the teachers become their guides and their resources: The "New Tech" classroom provides the tools to optimize the learning processes.

"How can I get my students to think?" is a question asked by many faculty, regardless of their disciplines. **Problem-based learning (PBL)** is an instructional method that challenges students to "learn to learn," working cooperatively in groups to seek solutions to real world problems. These problems are used to engage students' curiosity and initiate learning the subject matter. PBL prepares students to think critically and analytically, and to find and use appropriate learning resources. -- Barbara Duch

**PBL** is now used in numerous college undergraduate programs; it is used in all graduate studies - the thesis - the student develops a problem under the guidance of his/he professor and independently reaches the solution; it is the way we learn during the whole of our lives - we all have our own problems, we research the best ways to solve them - independently, or with trusted friends (or the internet or with experts)

**The New Tech High Indiana website** is a collaborative effort by:



This collaborative has set up a website at <http://www.newtechhighindiana.org/>

Three Indiana public schools which have now been operating for at least one whole year: These schools began with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, and are expanding upwards by one grade each year.

1. **New Tech School of IDEAS** 5251 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46221-3616  
[www.msddecatur.k12.in.us](http://www.msddecatur.k12.in.us) Office (317) 856-5288
2. **New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech** 1500 E. Michigan St. Indianapolis, IN 46201  
<http://titans.s716.ips.k12.in.us/~newtech/index.htm> Office: (317) 693-5300
3. **Zebra New Tech @ Rochester High School** 1 Zebra Lane, Rochester IN, 46975  
Phone: 574-223-2176 Fax: 574-223-3401 [www.zebbras.net](http://www.zebbras.net)

**NISMEC** (the Northern Indiana Science Mathematics & Engineering Collaborative) has been providing professional development to teachers of the PHM, Mishawaka and South Bend Schools for the past 4 years, principally in the K-8 grades (more than 200 teachers). Our focus of **Guided Inquiry** in these classrooms prepares the students directly for "New Tech" experience in high school. Hence, we strongly support the introduction of the "NEW TECH" idea at SBCSC. I note also that the **IC Explorers program**, the next agenda item (Dr. Pat O'Connor), is a natural precursor for students entering the "New Tech" high school system.

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