New Tech @ Ruston Students Create Community Holiday Design

New Tech @ Ruston students recently partnered with community stakeholders to promote environmental responsibility throughout the holiday season.

A member of the Keep Lincoln Parish Beautiful Board, NT@R Director Cathi Cox-Boniol was approached by other board members about New Tech students getting involved. Students in Kay Peters’ second period Animation and Visual Effects class then stepped up to the challenge of creating original design work for the KLPB holiday awareness campaign.

Ibrahim Al-Alagha, Tray Brown, Jordan Bruner, Cristal Cano, James Capello, Kristen Clark, Lillie Perry, Phyuasia Poe, Katie Sawyer, Dusty Thomas, Tylor Townsend, and Muriel Woodard worked collaboratively to develop the winning design that marks the first KLPB holiday initiative.

Created especially for Lincoln Parish, the design featured a turkey and Santa Claus cleaning up beneath a peach tree filled with holiday lights as confetti cascades from the sky. The tag line of “Keep Lincoln Parish Beautiful for the Holidays” with an outline of the parish map caps off the festive artwork that clearly states the intent of the parish-wide initiative that ran from Thanksgiving through New Years.

The student group teamed up with Donnie Bell Design to complete the graphic design and have the artwork camera ready for reproduction. The design was then transferred to small color magnets being distributed throughout the parish by members of the Lincoln Parish Sheriff’s Department DARE team. The student group is shown with their community partners as the magnets began distribution over the holidays. This project represents the type of global and community awareness set to be a critical component in the foundation of the New Tech program.
Trust Card Incentive Winners

New Tech @ Ruston continues to develop a culture of trust, respect, and responsibility through its Trust Card Program and is proud to announce the latest students to be rewarded for their commitment to these tenets. This marks the second round of monthly winners for the incentive program as well as the first semester winner. Each student has maintained their Trust Card with no infractions; monthly winners received a $20 gift card and the semester winner received a $150 Amazon.com gift card. The NT@R staff congratulates these students and looks forward to the continued development of New Tech culture and the success to follow.

New Tech Partners With Adopt-A-School Program

Because the Adopt-A-School Program is built upon partnerships that benefit both the schools throughout Lincoln Parish and this community, it looks to reinforce service-based relationships that can enhance both. Therefore it was a perfect fit for the partnership to include New Tech @ Ruston, an innovative new learning initiative underway on the Ruston High School campus.

Among the NT@R Learning Outcomes is Global and Community Engagement where the learner explores different perspectives on global, cultural and local issues and values, leading to action in his/her community. The AAS Program provides an exceptional opportunity for the students to collaborate with business and civic partners as well as other schools to engage in activities designed to benefit the community.

The recent AAS food drive to support Christian Community Action is the first formal activity that NT@R has partnered with. Supervised by NT@R Coordinator Catherine Letendre and RHS Counselor Jessie Bryan, students worked alongside Rotarian Bill Cox and Super 1 Foods Manager Chris Turner as well as staff from Emmanuel Baptist Church to load and deliver food collections from more than a dozen schools. New Tech @ Ruston expresses its appreciate for this avenue of service as well as the opportunity to learn more about partnerships within the community.
Global Studies
"Adapt This!"
Students read "The Cask of Amontillado" and study the elements of plot and different literary elements in the short story. The students then work on creating a modern day film adaptation for "The Cask of Amontillado" and are required to write a pitch, explaining their adaptation while trying to convince Sony pictures to pick up their adaptation, as well as a screenplay (or script) for their adaptation. A class competition for the best adaptation is included.

Biology
"Genetic Detectives"
Students play the role of genetic counselors as they learn about genetic diseases, their cause, and inheritance patterns in a family. They will use the awesome new science lab frequently as students learn new lab techniques. Parents are invited to attend the presentations for this project and assist in grading the students. Anyone interested should contact Sarah Wages at swages@lincolnschools.org.

Animation and Visual Effects
"San Francisco Prezi"
Prezi is a Web 2.0 tool used to create presentations. Students will be using Prezi in upcoming projects in their core classes. These Prezis were created as part of a Virtual Tour of San Francisco.

Geometry
"Cyber Educate Me"
Students create and publish real web sites that contain instructional videos, interactive math problems, links to other web sites that include instructional information from the assigned topics of Data Analysis/Probability/Discrete math, and a built-in survey for visitors to supply information that could improve the created sites.

Algebra 1
"Tell Me a Story"
Students create children's stories using a literacy strategy called RAFT writing. Students will complete six stories based on six different Grade Level Expectations and stories must have both pictures and audios to convey their story based on math GLEs.

Snapshots of Adopt-A-School Work
Good job Sam McIntire, Jamarion Harris, Montrel Davis, Henry Thompson, Kramer Newsom, and Stephen Hall!

GLOBAL STUDIES GUEST SPEAKER
Both Global Studies blocks welcomed Rachel Schofield, a graduate student at Louisiana Tech, for a workshop on screenplay writing as part of the "Adapt This!" project.
New Tech @ Ruston begins with the end in mind. That end might be the completion of a project, a problem solved, students’ academic proficiency, or even their impending future in the real world. To that end, NT@R utilizes project-based learning to seamlessly address both rigorous core curricular material and 21st Century skills that emphasize an authentic application of knowledge. Designed to meet the needs of today’s 21st Century learner, the learning environment is technology-rich and structured to mimic the collaborative spirit of the workplace and corporate world. With teachers functioning as facilitators and students thus empowered with greater responsibility for their learning, the process yields a more productive and successful student who will ultimately become a greater asset to the post-secondary world awaiting them. In the end, NT@R begins with being real: real projects, real world, real learning for all students.

Empowering Students for Success in the 21st Century

Facilitating Authentic Learning Through:

- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Advanced Technology

As 2011 rolled out, NT@R moved in to its new home. Students and teachers worked collaboratively to get the Class of 2014 moved into the newly renovated space especially designed for the freshman class. With larger rooms encased in glass and equipped to meet the collaborative and creative needs of the New Tech learner, the innovative learning community kicked off the new year with a new look, a new feel, and an exciting new perspective that set the tone for even greater success!

QUOTE OF THE DAY:
"I am really proud of the new facility and can already see it positively benefiting students. I feel like they are trying harder because of how professional our environment looks. I’m really looking forward to my next two presentations; I have had chills come down my spine for some of the ideas these students have come up with this week.” — Daryl Savage

New Tech @ Ruston Staff:
Catherine Letendre (Coordinator), Daryl Savage (Math), Missy Wooley (Teacher Advocate), Sarah Wages (Biology), Kim Goree (Global Studies), Kay Peters (Animation and Visual Effects), Lindsay Bolton (Global Studies), Cathi Cox-Boniol (Director), Tara Turner (Student Support)

NT@R Staff Names VIPS
The following students were recognized as VIPS—Very Impressive Project Students—for their outstanding work during the last round of projects:

**Algebra I:** “Need Some Money”—Carly Jones

**Geometry:** "Hit "Em and Sink “Em”—Erick Huynh

**Global Studies:**
"Boo Who?"
1st Block: Aranaye Clay, Sabrina Hullaby, Leigh Roseberry, Chandler Haddox, Haley Gray  2nd Block: Tristan Sasser, Erick Huynh, Jamarius Washington

"Amazing Race: North America"
1st Block: Chandler Haddox, Srylena Houston, Charis Kennedy, Caleb White, Gracie Lewis  2nd Block: Jamarius Washington, Chance Rhone, Tristan Cecil, Dusty Thomas, Erick Huynh

**Biology:**
"Cells to the Rescue!"—Emma Carpenter, Sabrina Hullaby, Britt Manning, Malik Taylor for their superhero cell of Thor
"Our Cancer Campaign" Claymation—Garrett Allen and Anna Claire Wyatt; Andrea Long, Britt Manning, Kellen Skains, Malik Taylor

**Animation and Visual Effects:** "San Francisco Prezi "—Jermiran Spivey