



Arlington Tech Program Description and Student/Family Commitment

I. Statement of Philosophy

Arlington Tech, founded in 2016, is a rigorous option program for STEM oriented, self-directed learners who thrive in collaborative groups and are interested in starting their college course work early. The program integrates project-based learning, STEM through Career and Technical Education (CTE), and college coursework through a dual-enrollment partnership with Northern Virginia Community College.

This high school program is designed to provide students with a unique instructional experience. As such, we presuppose that students and their families accept, commit, and participate fully in the key tenets of our program. We believe that by their participation, students will develop competitive 21st century skills, be capable of autonomous leadership, and leave high school ready for success in their future college and career endeavors.

II. System of Operation

A. Arlington Tech Learning Framework

The Arlington Tech (AT) Learning Framework is a project-based, student-centered approach to learning in which students discover content knowledge and develop skills through active exploration of real-world, real-time challenges and problems. Through individual content learning and ongoing collaborative teams, students develop a deeper understanding of the “why” behind content standards. The AT Learning Framework relies on a student’s ability to engage in collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication.

In an Arlington Tech classroom, the supports and structures enable students to advocate for and manage their learning needs. This shift from the traditional model of instruction is essential to the design of the program, distinguishes us as an option within APS, and may not be the preferred approach for all learners. At Arlington Tech, the student assumes a substantial, often new, role as the self-directed learner. To be successful in this role, the student (and family) need to be committed to and work-toward developing the skills that will allow them to be independent and mature learners. A profile of our students and a complete list of the targeted skills needed for success as self-directed learners can be found on the [Profile of Our Students](#) webpage.

B. Cohort Model/Structured Course Pathway

When enrolling at Arlington Tech, students commit to the Arlington Tech [structured course pathway](#). This allows for our teacher teams to plan interdisciplinary projects and support students as an interdisciplinary team. Furthermore, the structure of the course pathway ensures that students are on-track to earn the Advanced Studies diploma and, through dual-enrollment, earn additional certificates and college credit.

While at Arlington Tech, we work to ensure that all students remain on grade level (as defined by the Arlington Tech course sequence) in order to enroll in core academic dual-enrollment courses that match their areas of strength. The course pathway is published each year and is subject to change.

C. Capstone Experience

Arlington Tech students are required to participate fully in [capstone](#); in the 10th & 11th grade, this requirement includes attendance and participation in all preparation workshops, etc, and securing placement in a capstone position; in the 12th grade year, students are required to maintain their capstone work experience.

III. Commitment

The applicant and the applicant's family have chosen Arlington Tech for its philosophy, vision, and structure. The decision to attend Arlington Tech is an acknowledgement to accept and take full advantage of the program as it is intended to be implemented and with the understanding that PBL, STEM through CTE, a structured course pathway, and capstone are foundational tenets of the program.

Signing this document is a commitment to participate fully in the Structured Course Pathway and Capstone Experience.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____