

## GT School of Innovation—A New Tech Network Campus

Georgetown School is part of rich history on the Georgetown Divide. It has distinguished itself as one of the oldest public schools (built in 1854), a Title One School and in the spring of 2018, Georgetown School applied and was accepted as a New Tech Network (NTN) school joining over 200 high performing school nationwide.

In recent years Georgetown School and it's community have stated a desire to improve student performance by pursuing STE(A)M education practices. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is a popular way of integrating real world problem solving into daily classroom activities. Georgetown School's PTA, School Site Council and staff began their efforts by collecting and reading research on strategies in high performing schools. NTN's 2016 Outcomes Report showed New Tech students graduate from high school at a rate 9 percent greater than the national average, and that 70 percent of them attend college.

New Tech Network was one of several nationally studied programs linked with high performing schools that was recommended for further study by educational experts. An executive tour by BOMUSD Boardmembers, Georgetown staff and parents at an NTN School in the bay area confirmed that joining the New Tech Network team would move Georgetown School – Full STEAM ahead! The group returned to the community energized, inspired and ready to innovate. In early April staff from NTN visited and interviewed Georgetown School giving it the green light as a rapid start school due to the parents and teachers high level of commitment, enthusiasm and expertise in project based learning. As the first NTN school in El Dorado County our newly christened GT School of Innovation declares our belief that students are successful and engaged with learning when they are actively involved in evaluating real world problems and potential solutions through lessons that are project-based.

Through our NTN partnership our students will be engaged in Project Based Learning (PBL), an instructional method where students work for four to six weeks investigating and responding to a complex, real world problem. This program builds essential skills for today's world, including collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity. STE(A)M skills are integrated into each project (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math as well as common core standards. Student presentations of their projects are performed every six to eight weeks for our public (parents, student body and community partners). We would like to invite our school community and the community at large to learn more about New Tech Network and the exciting innovations ahead at our school Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

