

What People Say About Val Tech

Parent Testimonials About The Val Tech Program

As for the Val Tech Program, I can't imagine anywhere else in the district that permits students to innovate, explore and share their interests in technology the way that Val-Tech does.

Val-Tech encouraged Scott's creativity and built up his confidence. And as for the college preparation Scott received from Val-Tech and Valencia...well, he's been on the Dean's List both terms he was eligible. (Harvey Mudd College only gives out Pass/Fail grades first semester Freshman year).

When you take into consideration that we never paid for any additional College Prep-type class outside of Scott's high school curriculum - Val Tech's record speaks for itself.

Scott was enrolled in different schools in the district as part of G.A.T.E and otherwise, however, it wasn't until he attended Valencia that he was recognized as an individual and encouraged to flourish.

The beauty of Valencia is that it removed all the artificial boundaries and it didn't discriminate. Just as Val-Tech enriched his life, Valencia gave Scott a much larger sense of community, more than we could ever have imagined.

L. M. Almond

Another Proud Parent Writes:

I am very proud of my son and also very thankful for what your program has done for him. He is driven, has goals and is a hard worker (when he wants to be!), but not a straight A student. Without your program, he probably would have just muddled through at another high school and lost his focus. I appreciate the fact that Valencia took a chance on him and has encouraged him.

I tell everyone what a terrific experience he has had there and how student-friendly and achievement-oriented you are. Please don't stop admitting kids like my son who are on the cusp of achievement in middle school. Your program is terrific for them and they appreciate it because they know they have not always been treated like their higher-achieving peers.

My son bloomed late academically and would have been shut out of AP and honors at some other high schools. I know this because it happened to my older child. The son who attended Valencia is so much more confident and ready to try new experiences.

Your willingness to let kids try honors and AP courses helps these kids to see themselves as smart—maybe for the first time. My son believes in himself and I believe Valencia has had a big part in helping him get there.

Thank you-
Val Tech Parent

We are very proud of our daughter, but think a lot of her focus and excitement comes from a good learning environment, and for that you should be proud as well! That's not easy to pull off in these times of budget challenges and what not, but a perfect attendance all four years tells me she likes it there. So, thank you for getting her excited about learning and beyond! Please also pass our thanks to all the staff, especially Mr. Stanley and countless others I don't know by name for making education exciting for our daughter.

Thanks again!
--Val Tech Parent

Dear Mr. Guest and Mr. Stanley,

As you may recall, my son Alex graduated with a Val Tech diploma in June 2006, if my calculations are correct. And his brothers will start high school next fall. I find myself at a crossroads of time and space, that is look backwards and forwards at the same time.

It is not clear to me that Alex has kept you informed as to his progress since he graduated from Val Tech. As we look back on high school, five (5) classes/events stand out. Three were fundamentals and two were life changing. These were Mr. Guest's Computer Technology lab, I think freshman year, where Alex learned to type, a skill he uses every day. Another two were the Video Production and Accounting.

There were two classes that stand out from all the rest. These are the Val-Tech Internship and AP Economics. I will keep this short, but the internship is proudly placed on his resume and asked about in interviews for this summer's internship. Alex's internship was with Road Trip Nation, a TV show for PBS. I understand it is still being produced. This Val-Tech Internship came through Mr. Guest and I want to thank you for that.

I think I might have left something out. Alex is a senior at USC in the Marshal School of Business. Actually, he is in the Leventhal School of Accounting, a whole owned subsidiary of the business school. Alex is doing the undergraduate accounting program. Alex is also working on a double major in some kind of economic analysis through the Marshal School of Business as the requisites for the two majors generally overlap. At the moment, Alex is juggling the end of the semester and internship interviews. Which is why the Val-Tech experience is front and center.

Mr. Stanley's influence on Alex was more indirect. Alex remembers Mr. Stanley very favorably. I think Mr. Stanley's influence was more in the sense of how to think about the future. Mr. Stanley also helped Alex in feeling that he was a part of something. I think that working with Mr. Stanley gave Alex a sense that he was part of a special group.

To get to the future part of the subject header, Alex has twin brothers entering high school next year. They are currently at Tuffree, and they will be applying to the Val Tech program next year.

Thank you,
Val Tech Parent

Dear Mr. Guest,

As you know, two of our children have graduated with a Val Tech diploma. Our older daughter is attending Cal Poly Pomona full time and is majoring in accounting. She just added CIS so she may have another year to go. She may decide to just minor in it so she can graduate sooner, but she's doing well. Also about a year after she graduated from Valencia, the company where she did her Val Tech internship offered her a part time job in their accounting department and she works for them 3 days a week.

Our younger daughter just finished her 2nd term at Southern Oregon University and has been home for Spring Break for the last two weeks. She has made the dean's list both terms and is playing on SOU Women's soccer team and she loves it.

My husband and I are proud of them both. Thanks for asking.

Val Tech Parent

I have so many good things to boast about I'd be willing to meet the PYLUSD film crew before or after my travel dates if that were possible. I'd be willing to go to a different campus or their local studio if that could be an option. Please let me know if there is some way I can be of help.

From a parent's perspective, my kid had to work hard; it was no easy ride. But she had a lot of help, resources, guidance, and encouragement from genuinely caring faculty that made it fun for her. Keeping that spark alive, especially in teenagers, is Val Tech's secret sauce. Today, Amanda is a sophomore at UC Davis' College of Engineering taking electrical and mechanical engineering courses, along with math, and physics courses because she wants to be a Robotics Engineer.

A good high school education and experience has allowed her to see and now pursue this dream. From industry's perspective, Val Tech reaches out to companies within the local community to show their students what's possible and gain that very important firsthand experience. Students choosing to continue on to colleges have fantastic application discriminators while students entering the workforce have relevant, immediately productive trade skills.

Please pass this on to other families.

I wish you all the best.

Val Tech Parent

Mr. Guest,

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support and encouragement with my son. It is teachers like you that make a real difference. I would be glad to assist in any further endeavors that parents can be a part of, since this is very important not only for our kids, but to the overall reputation and standing of Valencia High school.

Warm Regards,

Val Tech Parent

Thank you, Mr. Guest, for all your support and encouragement for David. We are not surprised that he did a super job. We are very proud of him and we could not be more pleased with his experience in Val Tech.

We feel that his going to Valencia for the Tech Program was the right decision for him. You have been a big part of his success and, again, we thank you for doing such a great job as a teacher and as the program director!

Val Tech Parent

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work as Val Tech Coordinator. You did a fantastic job. Both Jennifer and I are extremely happy that Ryan is concluding his high school career with something special. Whether or not he shows it, we know that he is very proud of his accomplishment. We realized that this was not an easy process, and it shouldn't have been. The Val Tech program is very demanding, but in the end, the value added is immeasurable. Ryan has matured as a person and learned so many things that he will be able to use in college. This effort has taught him that hard work does pay off in the end.

Thank you again.

Val Tech Parent

I just finished reading that great article about the outstanding teachers at Valencia. That has been the case for a very long time. My two children, Scott and Rebecca, graduated from Valencia in the late seventies and their teachers were exemplary.

When we moved here friends suggested that we might want our children to go to Eldorado; but, since we were in the Valencia district and my wife taught at Rio Vista we opted for Valencia and were delighted we did. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Valencia Parent

Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District Administrators

Feedback About The Val Tech Program

I must tell you that I was very impressed with the vitality of your kids. It's very encouraging to know that Valencia continues to send future professionals into the world of advanced education. So take a bow and send my heartiest "Well done" to all your students and staff members. I enjoyed my time with your kids and I look forward to next year!

PYLUSD Administrator

I should be thanking you for the opportunity to hear these wonderful presentations from your awesome students. I look forward to the Val Tech presentations all year. At dinner tonight I told my husband that, after spending the afternoon with a very angry special ed dad, it was an absolute delight to see four kids who are not only smart and gifted, but who clearly demonstrated they also have very strong moral character - "good on the inside!"

Thank you for letting me be a part of these presentations. Each of them mentioned you in their presentation with a great deal of respect and affection - indicative of the fact that you have made a difference in the lives of these kids that will impact them for a lifetime.

I'm already looking forward to next year! What are the future days for the presentations this year in case I can get by for more?

Thanks for your dedication!

PYLUSD Administrator

What an absolutely delightful experience, Mike. I really enjoy seeing the Val Tech projects. It is certainly a reminder for me of why I chose this profession! They are so blessed to have you set that foundation for them to develop skills and a passion that will serve them well for a lifetime! I hope to see you tomorrow. If I can get out of my other commitment, I'll be there.

PYLUSD Administrator

You have a fantastic school that I would be proud for any of my daughters to attend. Thanks again.

PYLUSD School Board Member

I was so impressed with the quality of the student presentations and the overall caliber of the offerings within the Val Tech program. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and learned so much.

You have done an amazing job of developing an absolutely first rate program and I am so proud of the work you have accomplished. I am looking forward to coming back again. You are doing an awesome job!

PYLUSD Administrator

As a PLYLUSD Director, it isn't often that people like me who oversee programs and don't work directly with students on a regular basis get to see what students are doing and how they feel about their schooling. Like you, watching these students perform and listening to them explain how their high school years have changed them has been inspiring and rewarding.

I was proud of each of them. They started in different places and each moved forward farther than they thought possible. I wish every student had the opportunity and commitment to participate in Val Tech or a similar program. The feedback from the companies providing the internships has been so positive and is a testament to the benefit of the program.

THANK YOU for your leadership and dedication to this program.

PYLUSD Administrator

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the Val Tech presentations. Every student did a great job in their final steps and stages of this truly outstanding program. You can personally take a great deal of pride in what you have established on the Valencia campus. I especially enjoyed our first presenter yesterday who clearly indicated that he was a student from a different Middle School who selected VHS and how it has made a tremendous impact. In addition, each student, every one, stated that it was you who initially provided them that foundation to move forward in the program. You are to be congratulated on a great job.

I want to again say thank you for including me. It was nice to come home to what I have always believed to be the finest, most caring, hardest working high school I have ever been associated with. Keep up the fine work. You are making a difference in their lives.

Former PYLUSD Administrator & Current School District Superintendent at another district

I really enjoyed the Val Tech presentations. It gave me a better understanding of the Val Tech program.

Thanks for your dedication to this outstanding program.

PYLUSD Administrator

You, the Val Tech kids, and your teachers do a great job and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Former PYLUSD Administrator & recently retired School District Assistant Superintendent
(another district)

Thanks again for the opportunity to see the wonderful students that are matriculating through your program. You do a great job!

Take care,
PYLUSD Administrator

I always walk away from the Val Tech presentations with a tremendous sense of validation regarding why I chose education as my profession. Those student presentations were absolutely phenomenal - outstanding –sensational -mind-boggling!!

As I was watering my flowers late last evening, I was thinking about each individual student who presented yesterday. What struck me the most was the precious gift your teaching team has given to each of them. The gift of acceptance for who they are and for the extraordinary talents they possess. When I was in high school, the students would probably have been classified as “different” because of their brilliant minds, their individualism, and their quest for exploring their potential. Your Val Tech Program opens a whole new world for them, gives them hope in their future - confidence and pride in who they are and what they can accomplish.

Thank you doesn't seem adequate, but please know it comes from the heart! Believe me, the pleasure was ALL mine!

PYLUSD Administrator

I recently walked into one of the Val Tech classrooms unannounced and I observed outstanding instruction being done by the teacher. Clearly this type of teaching happens on a regular basis. I was totally impressed with the level of quality instruction that the students receive and the amount of technology used to help students learn.

Val Tech is not just for a certain type of student. Academically, Val Tech is open to a wide range of kids. But the common factor is that they have a common interest in technology and computer related fields. A huge number of Val Tech graduates matriculate to the University of California, Irvine where they major in Compute Science. The popularity of the Val Tech program continues to grow—and rightfully so—because that is where so many jobs in the future are going to be found.

PYLUSD School Site Administrator

What Internship Hosts/Mentors Say About Val Tech

Testimonials About The Val Tech Program

John Kremer, former internship coordinator at The Boeing Company, says this about the Val Tech internship program:

Year after year Boeing welcomes energetic, qualified Val Tech interns, who are willing to work and willing to learn. They get hands-on experience in a tech job, and we get to mentor the next generation of engineers. The Val Tech internship program is a win-win.

An Engineering host/mentor writes:

My Val Tech student was a terrific Intern. He has a level of maturity of someone older. He is extraordinarily conscientious and focused. He has the attitude of someone who wants to learn. He did everything I asked him to very well, and in a timely manner. He picked up on Systems Engineering really well. A lot of times he surprised me by how quickly he understood and did things. I invited him to several of my team meetings, including telecons with the customer, where we discussed technical issues and he listened attentively and followed as much as he could. I think he has potential to succeed in anything he decides to do in his career path.

Just thought I would share my impressions. I enjoyed having him.

Thanks

Val Tech Internship Host, Ph.D., P.E.
Associate Technical Fellow &
Senior Systems Engineer

Boeing sponsors and hosts Val Tech students throughout the summer through our High School Engineering Internship Program. Students come and learn how math and science can be applied in the workplace. The Val Tech students that come through our internship program have the leadership skills, teaming skills, and the interpersonal skills that Boeing really looks at.

Nancy Diaz
Past Internship Coordinator
The Boeing Company

Students in the Val Tech program have a practical application to what they are learning in school. And, they will be able to go out and use that knowledge.

Curt Apduhan
Emmy® Award Winning Filmmaker

Val Tech students learn life skills—not just “content”. Students learn planning, problem solving, and how to be collaborative workers. Students learn how to be better prepared to be citizens of society.
Val Tech Host/Mentor

What Students Say About Val Tech

Testimonials About The Val Tech Program

Hello Mr. Guest!

What a pleasure it was to visit with you during the school day a couple weeks ago! The last time we spoke, I had not yet found a summer job, but recently I have started working for my uncle in his office doing odd jobs around his office. One of the projects given to me was to make a power point presentation for someone going on a business trip to Florida soon (the main reason for her traveling is to give her presentation, so it's pretty important). Over the past few days, I have been working with the notes she gave me to create an awesome presentation. When I showed her all the cool effects I added, she was amazed and expressed her gratitude for my hard work and thorough understanding of the Microsoft program to be able to come up with such a professional, aesthetic, and easy-to-read presentation. I just wanted to tell you about this since it was in your Computer Technology class that I learned to do these things. You should let your students know that the programs they're learning about now may earn them a hefty paycheck in the future! :)

Thanks for letting me share my story. I hope you are doing well and finishing up the school year with a smile.

Best Wishes,

Val Tech Alumni

Dear Mr. Guest,

Throughout my high school career, you were one of the most helpful and influential teachers I had the pleasure of working with. Under your guidance, I was able to excel in the Val Tech program, which I feel was an excellent stepping-stone for college and the working world. I am grateful for the countless hours you spent organizing such a prestigious program and the dedication with which you executed your vision.

When it came time to apply to universities, I am thankful that you directed me to your alma mater, UC Irvine, which has been an excellent experience for me thus far. The business program, although new, has allowed me to take many interesting and informative classes that will assist me after I graduate and move into the workplace. Without a Val Tech diploma and my business internship, I doubt I would have been accepted into such a new and exciting program in the midst of such fierce competition.

Even as I continue my education at UCI, you still make the effort to remain involved in my life via email, and you always take time to visit when I occasionally visit Valencia. Over my extended scholastic career and of the numerous teachers and professors who have instructed me, you are undoubtedly one of the

most professional and genuine teachers that I have had the pleasure to encounter. I have a tremendous amount of respect for you and appreciate everything you have done for me. For that, I thank you Mr. Guest, and I hope that you will remain an influence in my life for years to come.

Sincerely,
Val Tech Alumni

Hi, Mr. Guest,

I hope the Val Tech program is doing well :) My CIS class in college right now seems like the Computer Technology class at VHS all over again. Since I took the course as a Val Tech student, I think it will just make it that much nicer of a class. It really seems so much like your class we had to take as freshman. It's all of Microsoft Office and such, resume writing, and so on.

So, that's something to tell your current students, especially the Val Tech students :)

Sincerely,
Val Tech Alumni

Dear Mr. Guest,

I am just checking in, I know you said you like it when your amazing Val-tech students email you and tell you how they are doing. So here I am. School at Cal State Fullerton is great. My classes aren't really that hard because I am used to the high expectation that VHS has.

You still continue making my day even after high school. Honestly I am extremely flattered that you still talk about me, even if it's just to Dennis. It is nice to know what I left a part of me at Valencia and the Val-Tech Program. Anyways, enough about me. How are you Mr. Guest? How are these bratty freshmen and big bad seniors?

Sincerely your one of your favorite Val-Tech Students!
Val Tech Alumni

Being part of Val Tech is a completely different experience where students interact with computers on a daily basis.
Val Tech Alumni