

Tacoma School District — Tacoma, Washington

Reading, Writing, and Desktop Movie

Tacoma schools tune in to the future.

In Tacoma, Washington, a widely networked school district is reinventing the way students research, create, and share their work.



Located at the south end of Puget Sound, Tacoma's 53 school sites are the training grounds for 32,000 students from diverse backgrounds. Technology has been integrated seamlessly in model classrooms throughout Tacoma, and is so easy a fourth-grader can log on to the network, access remote folders, manage multiple submissions from fellow students, and assemble a science project on the fly. In a simulation of the world they will likely encounter once they graduate and enter the job market, students act as project managers and production teams on media projects that further core educational goals and build invaluable technology skills. Tools like Apple's new desktop video software Final Cut Pro are empowering Tacoma high school juniors and seniors to create public service announcements, documentaries, and digital video class assignments.

Perhaps because of its diversity (Tacoma has been recognized three times as an "All-America City"), Tacoma School District was the first district in the United States to boast a federally backed magnet school. McCarver Elementary School was a total Macintosh implementation, with "fully networked buildings and lab wired classrooms e-mail for students sharing