

Tekton Academies: Work with Dignity

Integrating Classical Virtues, Great Books, and Trades

In a society that values consumption over creation, craftsmanship becomes a revolutionary act. ~Matthew Crawford, "Shop Class as Soulcraft"

Mission Statement

To provide young adults who haven't finished high school with a comprehensive education that combines classical learning and practical skills, empowering them with the knowledge and abilities to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Curriculum Structure

1. Classical Education

- Great Books Program: Study of classic literature, philosophy, and historical texts to cultivate critical thinking, moral reasoning, and a deep understanding of human culture and values.

- Virtues Curriculum: Courses on classic virtues such as courage, temperance, justice, and wisdom, incorporating lessons from both ancient and modern sources.

2. Trade Education

- Hands-on Training: Practical training in various trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, welding, and more, taught by experienced professionals.

- Apprenticeship Opportunities: Partnerships with local businesses to provide real-world apprenticeship experiences, inspired by the approach of ***Manufacture Good***, focusing on life-changing work and craftsmanship.

3. Life Skills and Personal Development

- Workshops: Classes on financial literacy, personal development, and essential life skills to prepare students for independent and responsible living.

- Community Engagement: Encouraging involvement in community projects to build a sense of responsibility and connection.

Key Features

- Transformative Education: Combining intellectual and practical education to offer a holistic approach to personal and professional development.

- Supportive Environment: Creating a nurturing and supportive learning environment to help students overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

- Quality Craftsmanship: Emphasizing the importance of quality work and the dignity of labor in all trades.

Potential Outcomes

- Empowered Graduates: Students equipped with both academic knowledge and practical skills, ready to enter the workforce or pursue further education.
- Stronger Communities: Graduates who contribute positively to their communities through skilled work and civic engagement.
- Sustainable Employment: Opportunities for stable and dignified employment in various trades and professions.
- Students on the path to pursue what Ian Rowe calls the “success sequence”:
 - get at least a high school degree
 - get a full-time job and
 - get married before having children

The [latest research](#) shows that 97% of young people who follow all three steps are not poor as adults. And 90% of young adults who complete the first two steps (graduate high school and get a full-time job) are not poor in their 30s. In comparison, half of adults in their 30s who missed all three steps (52%) are in poverty.

Legislative and Funding Opportunities

- SB1307: Oklahoma's Senate Bill 1307 provides an exemption from certain assessments for students over a specific age who seek to complete the twelfth grade. This legislation can be leveraged as a possible funding stream and supportive legislative framework for 'Tekton Academies,' aiding in the facilitation of educational completion and vocational training for older students.