

Electives: Overviews

Tools 101

Unless you are raised by a handy mother, father, or guardian... it is assumed that, for subjects like "tools," you'll just "pick it up" over time. We at Nexbooks would rather give you a heads start, covering the majority of tools that a non-professional DIY type would use and keep in the home.

And in reality, by teaching tools, and how to use them, we are really teaching self-reliance, and an entirely different way of looking at things. There is power in having and using tools, and we are excited to pass that power onto our students!

Recommended Ages: All ages

Recommended Number of Credits: 2.5- (equivalent to 1/2 semester)

Your First Car

There might be nothing more exciting than the freedom associated with learning to drive, and having your first car! That being said, unless you have a parent or guardian that is handy under the hood, there might also be nothing more confusing. Different from a true "auto repair" course, this class covers things from basic maintenance, to how to deal with an accident, and what the lights on your dashboard mean.

Aside from being practical and fun, this course should be considered mandatory for anyone nearing the age of driving! If you crave "relevance" in education, this course is perfect for any 16 year old... and frankly, probably even their parents/guardians!

Recommended Ages: 14 and Up

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

Fix Your House

Many of us, unless our parents or guardians are contractors, know very little about the home we grow up in. In school, we learn to factor polynomials and memorize the capitals, but can we turn off the water to our house in an emergency? This course does exactly that... it is designed to teach you about your house, inside and out, so that you can maintain it, and even potentially improve it. This course couldn't be more relevant, and is actually pretty fun, once you start to notice and tinker with the systems in your house.

Recommended Ages: 12 and Up

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

Intro to Photography- Surf & Skate

Learn one of the best careers in the world, from one of the best at it. David "Nelly" Nelson shares his lifetime of experience and knowledge of surf & skate photography, having worked with the best surfers (& Skaters) on the planet, including Kelly Slater, John John Florence, Andy Irons, Kai Lenny, Nathan Fletcher, Christian Hosoi, Daryl "Flea" Virostko, "Barney," ...and everyone in between. He's also shot in legendary surf spots from nearly every corner of the globe, including Teahupo'o, J-bay, Pipeline, Mavericks, and has scored 96 magazine cover shots.

It is unclear which is more valuable to the student, Nelly's insight into the craft that he has mastered, or his love/passion for life... but you are sure to walk away with both, after taking this class. This was one of our favorite courses to make, and we hope it is one of your favorite courses to take!

Recommended Ages: 14 and Up

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

Intro to Cooking

As opposed to trying to learn to cook by following one recipe after the other, seeking some sort of pattern or logic, this course does the exact opposite. With an incredible gift for making the complex simple, the award winning Chef Dylan France teaches kids to understand the chemistry and principles behind how and why food cooks the way it does. Upon finishing this course, kids will not only be ready to prepare amazing and healthy dishes, but will have the knowledge and the confidence to "play" with food, and to "create." Chef Dylan France teaches that "recipes are recommendations," and encourages kids to "make food their own." This course should be mandatory curriculum for everyone.

Recommended Ages: 12 and Up

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

Start a Nonprofit

This course is an "intro to" type of course that really sheds light on the value of starting and running a nonprofit, on both the founder, and on the world. Along with a description of what it is like to direct a nonprofit, the course also includes the nuts and bolts of how exactly to get a nonprofit up and running, how to stay compliant, as well how to fundraise and to thrive.

Our kids/students should not assume that the only way forward is to prepare for a job, but rather, that they can direct their own future while making a significant positive impact on the world around them. This course both emboldens students, and teaches students exactly how to do so.

Start Your Own Small Business

In school, kids are constantly being told what it takes to “get a job.” What if they learned what it took to “create a job?” That is exactly what this course sets out to do. You’re never too young to start your own business, and in this course, kids will learn the nuts and bolts of starting and running a business. Aside from being extremely practical, this class is super fun, and gets kids thinking like entrepreneurs, rather than employees!

Recommended Ages: All ages

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

Investing 101

There is a misconception that investing is an “adult thing,” as it has not been offered in our middle and high schools. Well, those days are gone. In this course, Nexbooks has broken down everything from buying stocks on popular trading platforms, like Robinhood and Ameritrade, to ETFs, Futures Contracts, and even retirement accounts. Investing is a lifelong activity, like fitness or learning, and with this course, students will understand both how it's done, and its importance. As promised, this course goes a long way in supporting our mission of making school “relevant and fun again!”

Recommended Ages: 12 and Up

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

How to Adult

If any course could epitomize our mission at Nexbooks, of making learning relevant and applicable to real life, this course is it. A common complaint that young adults express is “How come I didn't learn about that in school?” Well now, kids can and are learning about “adulting” from early on. From career and taxes, to loans and citizenship, this course breaks down what everyone should know in adulthood, and is presented in a way that anyone can understand. You might find parents eavesdropping on their kids during this class...as many of us adults are still sorting some of this stuff out. Enjoy.

Recommended Ages: All ages

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)

Build Your Own Computer

There is something extremely satisfying about working, or gaming, on a PC that you built from the ground up, and that is exactly what this course teaches kids to do. For the

budding engineer, this “hands on” course is a must, as they will learn how the parts of a computer work, in a theoretical sense, but will also get to touch and install each component, one at a time. Building a computer is step one, and even a “rite of passage,” for most computer engineers, and this course helps to facilitate that first step.

(Note: You must find/buy your own computer parts for this course, but we guide you on that as well.)

Recommended Ages: 12 and Up

Recommended Number of Credits: 5- (equivalent to one semester)