



KADOKA ACADEMY ESTABLISHED

2023



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EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND PEDAGOGY

- The most important things in life are not taught in the classroom
- There are diverse forms of intelligence, of which school is a poor measure
- Creativity is a muscle that can be exercised and developed
- There is a lower knowledge (science of the physical or material world) and a higher knowledge (science of the interior or spiritual world). School is 99.9% focused on lower knowledge, despite it being universally recognized as inferior. Parents ultimately care about the health and maturity of their children's interior world but the hierarchy of subjects are not oriented around higher knowledge, or in other words, the things that really matter in life. This imbalance caused by focusing exclusively on the external, material world shows up in a variety of alarming public health statistics for both young men and women.
- The problems in our society cannot be solved by the same level of consciousness that created them
- History proves divergent thinking adds the most value to society yet our education system discourages it
- It is the responsibility of a committed learner to not depend solely on the school curriculum and teachers for education
- School was originally designed for a world that no longer exists
- If you can be taught how to do something, you can be easily replaced (no job security)
- Who you know (and how to navigate hierarchical power structures) is more important than what you know
- Students have more talent than they are currently displaying and the environment in which they are immersed can encourage or discourage their own greatness
- The value of a college degree is dropping precipitously while the cost is increasing
- Good teachers are scarce and valuable (teaching is no longer a desirable career)



We have the choice to engage in things that are interesting, new, off topic, exciting, risky, and even thrilling or we can continue to absorb boring, irrelevant information that used to matter 50 years ago.

The Academy is a bold attempt by concerned community members to prepare our youth with insights from modern science and ancient wisdom. The Academy helps youth thrive in a rapidly evolving world rife with unprecedented challenges and opportunities.

The Kadoka Academy unorthodox curriculum encourages students to develop practical experience, wisdom, and non-ideological problem-solving skills.



The Breeding Ground for future Innovators



Kadoka Academy offers a year long program for academically mature high school students.

Kadoka Academy's Program is an elite academic experience rich in diversity of thought. It's curriculum, both implicit and explicit, encourages personal development, conscious evolution, and integral well being as a means to supplement an academic common core.

A black and white photograph showing two students working on a large-scale outdoor project. One student is seated on the ground, focused on drawing or painting on a large sheet of cardboard. Another student stands behind them, also engaged in the work. They appear to be creating a large-scale mural or artwork. In the background, there is a brick wall and some trees, suggesting an urban or park-like setting.

The Program encourages students to explore fundamental questions while developing habits of mind that will prepare them for success in all areas of life. Students are asked to reach their own conclusions through deep thinking, critical analysis, and intense discussion.

Some refer to Kadoka Academy Program as Adulting 101, a creative camp for builders, or a platform to discuss all those things we wish we learned when we were in school.

THE YEAR LONG PROGRAM

The Year Long Program meets every Saturday for 10 months from September to June.

A unique feature of the Year Long Program is the opportunity to be paired with a mentor for one on one coaching to navigate the demands of high school, college admissions, and life outside school.



Who is it for?

It is for parents that want their children to:

- Start adulthood with many advantages that are hard to find elsewhere
- Have better odds of flourishing throughout adulthood
- To start conversations that matter now
- Be able to think and create in ways traditional schools do not support

It is for students that are open to:

- Doing hard things
- Self-examination
- Diverse experiences
- Experimenting
- Taking action
- Personal growth
- One on one coaching
- Getting out of their comfort zone
- Challenging themselves and others



“Our goal is to provide a gathering point for people from a variety of backgrounds to interact, integrating art, ideas, and discourse with an emphasis on process rather than on product.”

Who is it NOT for?

- Credential seekers
- Check the box learners
- Memorizers
- Those easily offended by diverse perspectives
- Those not interested in change, striving or being challenged

Curriculum



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We work with each student's natural curiosity and interests and explore the intersection of their unique talent and the needs of the modern world.

Kadoka Academy does not have a standardized curriculum designed with a one size fits all approach. Each cohort is diverse, unpredictable, and (maybe even) thrilling as the joy of learning is discovered and practiced in a supportive environment with few (if any) rules.

Kadoka Academy takes a community-based approach to hosting vulnerable conversations to address the deeper matters of the soul while cultivating a practical approach to preparing the next generation for unprecedented challenges in a rapidly evolving world.

The Academy is deliberately elite and selective, with the goal of creating an enriching environment of high-

achieving peers, free to play with provoking ideas in the lifelong quest to become healthy, wealthy, and wise.

The Academy is fast, flexible, and focused, and, therefore, classroom resources and syllabus are subject to change.

The topics covered are the result of asking top performers in a variety of fields what they wish they learned in school. It is a collection of top life lessons, many learned the hard way, and told through personal narratives.

We've scoured the tomes of ancient philosophy and modern scientific literature to provide the most potent and impactful strategies for living the good life.

While many of the stories and discussion topics fall outside the purview of typical academic programs.

Kadoka Academy's Program creates time and space to indulge in conversations that matter. In today's world of increasing distraction, we defend the art of leisure to pursue the good, the true, and the beautiful.

Money, Economics and Wealth

- How to get rich without being lucky
- Personal finance 101
 - time value of money
 - compound interest
 - saving and investment strategies
- Positive vs zero sum games
- Budgeting, taxes, and retirement accounts
- Money traps: common mistakes of those that went broke
- Borrowing and loans (when it makes sense and when it doesn't)
- Home ownership, mortgages (why is it called the death pledge?) vs leasing
- Interest rates, inflation, banking, how a capitalist society works (the pros and cons), and why business owners are always the wealthiest class in any society
- Dispelling the labor perception bias: how inputs, effort, and time are not related to compensation [case study: CitiGroup logo]

Leverage: why all highly compensated work is creative in nature

Influences: Tony Robbins, Dave Ramsey, Bob Brinker, The Minimalists, Colin Wright, Ralph Potts

Books: Mastering the Game of Money, The Almanack of Naval Ravikant, The Minimalists, Tribe of Mentors, Random Walk Down Wall Street

Wisdom and Virtue

- Honesty, integrity, and telling the truth: the austerity for the modern age
- How to tell if someone is BS'ing you: critical thinking in the post-truth world w/ case studies from current political discourse and mass media
- What can I do now to increase the odds of flourishing over the long term?
- What is the good life and how do I live it?
- What do wise elders and the wisdom traditions say?
- Perspectives on the meaning of life
- Saints and sages, why are they revered for generations and across cultures?

Relationships, Social and Emotional Intelligence

- Long term games with long term people: how to have relationships that work
- The proven techniques to increase the time and space between stimulus and response, a common marker for maturity
- Surprising variables modern science has identified as predictive of high quality of life
- Maps and models of consciousness
- How to deal with difficult people, circumstances, and inevitable tragedy
- Top 10 ways men and women screw up their life

Influences: Daniel Gilbert, Jonathan Haidt, Ken Wilber, Laura Schlessinger, Richard Schwartz, James Fowler, Mr. Rogers, M. Scott Peck

Books: The Obstacle is the Way, The Ego is the Enemy, Social Intelligence, No Bad Parts, The Road Less Traveled





Educational Philosophy, Learning Theory and Practical Applications

- Habits to guarantee you'll be in the top 1% globally
- Lifelong learning, skill stacking, how personal and career trajectories are influenced by differences in attitude towards independent learning
- Lines of development, multiple intelligences, and the lessons from developmental psychology as taught by Jean Piaget, Clare Graves, Ken Wilber
- Taking responsibility for one's growth independent of teachers or curriculum and real world examples of the most respected firms globally
- Exercises to flex and train neuropathways

Influences: Montaigne, Plato, Howard Gardner, Aristotle, Marcus Aurelius, Cato, Epictetus, Seneca, Alain de Botton, Sir Ken Robinson, Buckminster Fuller, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Mark Twain, John Dewey, Sam Chaltain, Warren Buffet, Nicholas Nassim Taleb, Dr. M. Scott Peck, Swami Vivekananda, J. Krishnamurti, Gerald Heard, Alan Watts, Napoleon Hill, Dale Carnegie, Earl Nightingale

Books: The Consolations of Philosophy, Letters to a Young Stoic, How to Fail at Everything and Still Win Big, The Average is Over, Acres of Diamonds, How Proust Can Change Your Life

Public Speaking and Communication

- How to get positive attention to stand out in a loud, distracted world [translation for Tiger Moms: how to get into an elite university]
- Why and how effective communicators have unfair advantages in all areas of life
- Communication in professional settings [what to put in writing, what not to put in writing, follow up times, how to stand out among peers, how to clarify, how to listen and confirm understanding of expectations/timing]
- Confidence building exercises and nonverbal communication in professional and romantic situations
- Science and technology of persuasion
- Amazing and tragic case studies of those that got it wrong
- Common grammar and punctuation errors
- Writing and presentation skills

Influences: Joe Navarro, Susan Cain, Neil Strauss, Seth Godin, Ryan Holiday

Books: What EveryBODY is Saying, Talk Like TED, Purple Cow, Trust Me I'm Lying, Linchpin

Science, Statistics and Bias

- Correlation vs causation
- Spurious correlation and specious anomalies
- Is science absolute?
 - In which areas is our understanding evolving and where is it not?
 - What is objective truth and what is relative?
- Empirical generalization
- Hawthorne Effect
- How to identify biases in news and media and personal prejudices
- Consequences for a public that does not understand statistics and how it leads to populist policy decisions [case studies on classic misinterpretation of statistics re: autonomous vehicles, aviation, agricultural water usage]
- Dr. Robert Cialdini: exposure → favorable bias → group think
- What is True? [case study of med school students on reddit]
- Case studies of experts getting it wrong and authorities giving horrible advice/causing problems

Influences: Richard Feynman, Nassim Taleb, Tyler Cowen, Robert Cialdini, Dan Ariely

Books: Surely You're Joking Mr. Feynman, The Black Swan, Fooled by Randomness, Predictably Irrational, Pre-Suasion, Influence

**Science of Happiness:
Lessons from Modern
Science and Ancient
Spiritual Masters**

- What does the latest research tell us about the link between money and happiness?
- Case studies of the rich and famous
- The three scientifically proven ways to enhance baseline
- Hedonistic treadmill and common happiness traps
- The lessons from Harvard's most extensive longitudinal study and the Framingham Heart Study
- Satisfiers vs maximizers and role of expectations, including the secret to a good life: being easy to please

Influences: Jonathan Haidt, Shawn Anchor, Daniel Goleman, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Martin Seligman, Sam Harris

Books: Happiness Hypothesis, Happiness Advantage, Stumbling Upon Happiness, Flow

Death and Dying

- Common deathbed regrets
- The philosophical problem of death
- How to prepare for yourself and others
- How to host conversations with your family on sensitive topics

Influences: Steven Levine, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

Books: On Death and Dying



What Employers Seek

- Role of innovation in standards of living, GDP growth, and moving humanity forward
- How to think like an owner and entrepreneur within any organization
- Convergent vs divergent thinking and which adds more value to society
- How to re-train neuropathways after 12 years of formal education

that exclusively rewards convergent thinking and punishes creative, divergent thinking

- The top two traits: conscientiousness and energy
- The best predictor of future success is your past success. If you've always been taught what to do, you're going to need to be taught what to do in the workplace, which means the employer can teach others to do that role, which means you're easily replaceable, which means you cannot command good wages
- Artificial intelligence, geo arbitrage, and why all highly compensation work is and will continue to be creative
- How to demonstrate presence/interest/desire/hunger
- Collaboration, resourcefulness, and

non-linear thinking

- Case studies and exercises in creative problem solving

Influences: Tyler Cowen, Naval Ravikant, Jim Collins, Daniel Pink, Peter Thiel, Seth Godin, Howard Gardner, Micheal Ellsberg, Bryan Franklin, Dale Stephens, Sal Kahn

Books: The Average is Over, Linchpin, Education of Millionaires, Think and Grow Rich, The Last Safe Investment, Steal Like an Artist, Atomic Habits, Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Dating, Marriage, and Romance

- What do people want in a partner; how should you behave/present yourself?
- Marriages: what increases odds of success?
 - cultural differences, important foundations, ideal traits to screen
- Divorce: how men and women think about divorce, top reasons for it and how to avoid messy relationships via the no drama lama
- How to attract the right partner, level up and access higher class and status
- Exciting and interesting date ideas

Influences: John Gottman, Aziz Anzari, Alain de Botan, John Gray

Books: Why Marriages Succeed or Fail and How to Make Yours Last, 7 Principles for Making your Marriage Work, Modern Romance, On Love, The School of Life

Career and Professionalism

- How to get clout: building relationships and reputation outside school
- Identifying and developing your own charisma and connecting it with your profession
- Resumes are dead: how to stand out in a sea of applicants
- Lookism
- How to discover which career path to pursue
- Leverage: activities for maximum impact
- Skill stacking and systemic thinking vs goal orientation
- Pursue passion or practicality?

Influences:

Cal Newport, Tyler Cowen, Seth Godin, Albert Schweitzer

Books: Answering the Call, Deep Work, So Good They Can't Ignore You: Why Skills Trump Passion, How to Fail at Everything and Still Win Big



Health and Wellness

Everyone wants to be fit and healthy but few achieve it...why? What can we do to be top 1%

- Habit forming behaviors, diet, nutrition, athletics
- Longevity science, blue zones, youth, appearance
- Fashion, does it matter? How to dress to increase confidence, influence, respect, and how it impacts outcomes personally and professionally, according to the latest research

Influences: Kelly McGonigal, Richard Branson, Dr. Andrew Weil, Dr. Mark Hyman, Swami Rama, Tim Ferriss, Richard Branson, Tony Robbins, Wim Hof, Michael Pollen, Paul Stamets, Andrew Huberman, Peter Attia

Books: UltraPrevention, Relaxation Response, Pantanjali Yoga Aphorisms, 4 Hour Body, Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers



Strength Finding

- Archetypes for understanding oneself and others
 - Mythology and enneagrams
- Strength based approach, moving from strength to strength
- Playing to your childhood talents

Influences: Joseph Campbell, Caroline Myss, Richard Rohr

Books: Archetypes: Who Are You?, The Hero's Journey, StrengthsFinder2.0

College

- How to get in the best universities
- If money and status is the goal, which is the best route?
- Which university is best for you?
- Does it matter where you go?
- Different perspectives and stories
- How to maximize return on investment and get the most out of college career
- Big fish in small pond or lost in a sea of over achievers and its role in confidence and joy in the workplace
- Financing (student loans vs parents vs work vs scholarships)

Influences: Peter Thiel, Anya, Seth Godin, Micheal Ellsberg, Kyle Eschenroeder, Surenda Mitra

Books: The Last Safe Investment, Education of Millionaires

TUITION AND FEES



- One year of Academy Program:
\$299/Month
- Every Saturday: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- September 2023 to June 2024

All tuition and fees must be paid at time of enrollment.

The faculty of Kadoka Academy have endowed a fund to provide access regardless of ability to pay.

Full scholarships and work-study programs are available to cover partial or 100% of the cost.

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Apply now at
Kadokacademy.com