

LEARNING BY DOING: THE JOURNEY OF TVL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

by:

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Senior High School is when you try new things, push yourself to grow, and start laying the groundwork for whatever comes next—like sketching out your first big plan in the margin of a notebook. For students in the Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) track, the journey takes on deeper meaning as they roll up their sleeves and dive into hands-on projects—welding sparks flying, laughter mixing with the hum of tools—blending enjoyment with real-world skills. Instead of sitting in a classroom with only books and lectures, the TVL strand lets students roll up their sleeves and dive into real-world work—cooking a meal, setting up a network, wiring a room, caring for patients, and more in specialized fields.

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At its core, the TVL track promises to give learners skills they can put to work the moment they graduate—like wiring a light switch or baking bread that smells warm from the oven. The Department of Education (DepEd, 2016) designed the K to 12 curriculum to prepare students for college and to equip them with hands-on, job-ready skills, from wiring a simple circuit to baking bread, through technical-vocational training. For many TVL students, it's about finding the thrill in hands-on work—sizzling onions in a pan, tracking down a stubborn software glitch, or carefully threading wires through a circuit board. These moments spark excitement and drive, especially when students spot how a math problem mirrors the price tags at the grocery store.

Beyond building skills, the TVL journey helps students stand taller, speak up, and discover a clear sense of purpose. Research shows that vocational training boosts students' chances of getting hired and closes the gap between the classroom and real-world jobs, like learning to weld in a noisy workshop (Okoye & Okwelle, 2014). Through hands-on simulations and real industry practices, TVL learners sharpen their technical skills and build soft skills too – like teamwork, quick problem-solving, and the flexibility to adjust when plans change. These qualities matter just as much at work as they do at home, whether you're leading a meeting or calming a tense dinner conversation.

The best part of the TVL strand is how it brings people together – you can feel it in the quick smiles exchanged across the room. Students often team up – whipping up pasta in a shared kitchen, tackling tricky technical projects, or lending a hand during hands-on assessments. These activities help them bond, turning their learning into something that's both effective and genuinely fun – like laughing together over a tricky puzzle they finally solve. When TVL learners strike the right mix of discipline and fun, they move through senior high with real energy, knowing each project – whether it's building a small cabinet or running a mock business – sets them up for opportunities waiting after graduation. As they move through their SHS journey, TVL students carry with them a love for learning that doesn't fade – like the spark in someone's eyes when they master a new skill. Their training shows that learning goes beyond theory, gaining depth through hands-on experiences – like solving real problems – that reflect the world beyond the classroom. By diving into both the tough moments and the small triumphs of hands-on learning – like the buzz of a power tool in the shop – TVL learners show they're not just getting ready for the future; they're already in the middle of it.

References:

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