

Teaching Electives

General Advice and Tips

- Electives offer students as much diversity in learning as possible. With a small high school and limited resources, you may need to be creative in how you offer a variety of classes for your students. Not all electives can be traditional, teacher-taught classes. Some examples:
 - Homeschool courses
 - Online courses
 - Programs like Rosetta Stone or DuoLingo for language study
- As a school, you will need to find the balance between offering diversity to expand students' horizons and not stretching yourself too thin. There is a time to cut out what you're not doing well and focus instead on what you can do well.
- Another option is to offer not-for-credit learning experiences during lunch. They are optional and can change every quarter. They might include things like art, photography, foreign language study, fitness classes, etc.
- Actively encourage extracurricular study in areas of student interest. Try to give students time to read, research, and explore the things they are wondering about.

Resources

The following are examples from various schools of how they implement elective courses for their high school students:

- Vocational skills syllabus: [Vocational Skills Practicum Syllabus - The Dock for Learning](#)
- Work studies: [Work Studies - The Dock for Learning](#)
- Shop classes:
 - [What Do We Want High School to Be? Shop Class at Countryside, Part One - The Dock for Learning](#)
 - [Equipping Today's Student: Shop Class at Countryside, Part Two - The Dock for Learning](#)
- Home Economics: [Hospitality Takes on a New Dimension: Our Home-Ec Program - The Dock for Learning](#)

Sources

- Priorities for High School: Making Electives Manageable by Howard Lichy and Douglas Groff: [Priorities for High School: Making Electives Manageable - The Dock for Learning](#)
- Priorities for High School: Focus on the Core by Douglas Groff: [Priorities for High School: Focus on the Core - The Dock for Learning](#)
- Extra-Curricular Study by Robert Heatwole: [Extra-Curricular Study - The Dock for Learning](#)