

# THE *NEXT* AMERICAN DREAM

Prepare Your Children To Live The *NEXT* American Dream

TOBY LAVIGNE



This PDF is designed to accompany the video  
"Introduction to Heroic Unschooling"

[Watch HERE](#)

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**WELCOME**

Welcome to the Vaikido Hero Unschool! My wife Shelly and I created this 'unschool' to help parents of school aged children like our own give their children a head start in a very new era defined by technology and rapid change.

We've connected with so many parents who share similar concerns about our education system and the world we face. Given the chance, many of us would do certain things differently if we better understood what we most needed to be successful as adults, and we want to avoid sending our children down similar paths.

We question what our education system is and is not addressing and also the ways in which it actually inhibits success. Are grades, test scores, and college *really* the best target?

We share concerns about our education system's ability to challenge our children with relevant projects and training. We have concerns about our education system's ability to nurture our children's natural abilities. And we challenge the assumption that education should be a competition that must result in winners and losers.

We have concerns about too much homework, too much blind memorization and not enough open questioning. And we resist the notion that our children must fill their schedules with extra curricular activities at the expense of quality family connection. We want our children to have the space to actually find their place in the world

around them and to not become addicted to the overcommitment that has become the new normal.

More and more parents are beginning to realize that we have to take responsibility for putting our children into a system that is indebting them and teaching them to be cogs in an economy that doesn't want cogs anymore.

More and more of us are coming to terms with the notion that the old definition of success is just that, old and decreasingly relevant. And that there are better options for our children.

We realize that as modern parents we get to pick a new definition of success for our children and that technology makes it possible for them (and ourselves) to succeed in ways that were simply not conceivable to our career counselors.

Ultimately we realize that our children need training and support that traditional schooling simply can't provide in order to take advantage of opportunities it can't anticipate. So we're looking for alternate communities and programs that can help us to realize the NEXT American Dream for our families and our children.

Shelly and I built the Vaikido Hero Unschool to give our children a kind of preparation that is simply not available anywhere else, and we're excited to share it with you.

## **ABOUT**

The seeds for the Vaikido Hero Unschool were planted decades ago in the elementary school where I was raised and in my home. It was there that I witnessed academic elite's inability to recognize unconventional potential and it's disrespect for it.

When I became a parent I wanted to create a better path for my children, but needed a simple framework to pull it off. It was then that I discovered what would become the 4-part Vaikido framework, and the results have been incredible.

When my wife and I filtered our own lives through the Vaikido framework, our connection and purpose as a family intensified. We dramatically simplified our lives and created the dynamic, entrepreneurial family learning experience we longed for.

And when we taught our daughters Vaikido we were blown away by their natural ability to understand these timeless principles.

Since then we've turned the process into a program we can share with like minded families. Vaikido children (VaiKiddos) are on the path to finding their unique and valuable contributions, couples are connecting as heroic co-leaders, and families are becoming focused teams that will have each other's backs forever.

The great thing about the Vaikido framework is that it clarifies and democratizes success. People are drawn to clarity. But if the 'rules'

of success aren't clear and the path doesn't seem accessible, children become adults who fail to realize their potential, they get left behind, and society becomes more and more divided.

The Vaikido framework will help.

This PDF, along with the accompanying video at [VaikidoHeroUnschool.com](http://VaikidoHeroUnschool.com) will serve as an introduction to the framework. Although this PDF is short and the introduction video is only 25 minutes long, the actual process is far more intensive, but this is a great start.

If you're ready to begin now, [register for the Silver Belt Certification today.](#)

We're helping a lot of families and I know we can help yours too.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

**Toby and Shelly LaVigne**

**Guides and Outfitters for The Next American Dream**

## HEROPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurially minded parents ‘understand’ that the path to success is changing rapidly, and that academic achievement is no guarantee of life success. We ‘get’ that many aspects of the academic path to success routinely fail to recognize unconventional potential. And we fear that if our children aren’t given a better path, they will be left behind.

The word ‘entrepreneurship’ conjures different definitions for all of us, so I want to clarify up front, what we mean when we use the word.

We see entrepreneurship as a continuum. Think of it this way. Entrepreneurs want the increased freedom and prosperity that come from charting their own course, and the satisfaction of serving others by solving important problems. And non entrepreneurs are looking for secure jobs with a manual and a boss to tell them what to do. Entrepreneurship is a mindset and a set of skills for solving problems and commercializing solutions that serve others.

When we say entrepreneurship there are no ‘absolute’ forms. When we talk about entrepreneurship we are speaking of a state of mind and a set of skills to be applied to solving problems and commercializing solutions. When we promote entrepreneurship we do not, mean, that your child must ‘found’ the next high tech startup.

What we mean is that to thrive in the New Economy, children must learn to adapt quickly. They must learn to learn. They must think in

terms of sculpting their own identities and careers rather than becoming dependent upon expensive diplomas, the generosity of an employer, or the longevity of an industry.

We certainly can’t predict which technologies will prevail or how they will be employed to shape our society. But we can predict TWO things.

First, your child’s prosperity and freedom are dependent upon their ability to coordinate human action to solve new challenges. Second, the tide is shifting. People are craving a return to tribal values with more authentic, local, and personal experiences.

These skills are what our children must learn to live the NEXT American Dream.

Mastery of anything requires a will to prevail, a methodology, practice, coaching, and the support of a like minded community. In these pages you will learn a new definition of success and you will discover a new and badly needed approach for achieving it.

Enjoy.

## WHY HEROISM?

Parents know that childhood is a brief window of time in which to forge a deep connection and convey vital life skills.

To succeed at instilling an entrepreneurial mindset in their children, parents need to think about how individual, family, and societal success *really* happen.

The first thing to understand is that when we say “success” we really mean prosperity; the capacity to produce a surplus for ourselves and others. It is the *incapacity to produce a surplus that produces the anxiety that is dividing and paralyzing our society. And it is the capacity to produce a surplus* that brings about the hopeful feelings of success and the real world results that we seek.

The second thing to understand is that prosperity is meant to be an interdependent, team pursuit. For 99% of humankind’s existence families and tribes worked together to prosper. This approach worked extremely well. It’s proven, and it still does.

But for the past 100 years we’ve been teaching the exact opposite approach. We’ve been teaching that “success” is primarily academic, limited to just some (the bell curve), that it comes at the expense of others (even your family), that you must always be ‘crazy busy’, and that you must ‘work for someone else’.

Today, schools ‘socialize’ students to believe that this ‘success’ path is ‘normal’. We have been diminishing THE most important and most natural sources of learning, support, and prosperity in existence; entrepreneurship and interdependence.

And in the process we’ve been alienating countless individuals while dividing our society.

Our definition of success and our approach for realizing it are severely broken.

### **Heroism**

We have been conditioned to think of heroism as something rare and physically dangerous, like running into a burning building. We have been conditioned to think that communities and service are quaint notions, and that moral courage is optional. But for most of human history, family, tribe and heroism were inextricably linked; heroism, a commitment to being a contribution for the good of others, was expected and rewarded.

In order to prosper interdependently, every member of a family, a tribe, or a team was expected to be accountable for contributing for the good of each other. Conveniently, this ALSO happens to be the formula for exceptional success and happiness.

Interdependence and heroism used to be as normal as selfishness has become today.

*“For most of human history, the art of the hero was not left up to chance. It was a multidisciplinary endeavor of optimal nutrition, physical self mastery, and mental conditioning that children were taught at a young age. The hero’s skills were studied, practiced and perfected. And they were passed from parent to child, teacher to student, generation to generation. Children graduated into adulthood via a rite of passage that demonstrated their capacity, competency, and commitment to being a contribution to their community.”*

Christopher McDougall, author, Natural Born Heroes

Heroism is really interdependent service.

Interdependence can only exist with leadership. And the primary source of that leadership has always been, and must become again, parents.

**From now on, think of parenting as family leadership, and think of success as interdependent prosperity.**

There are thousands of leadership and success myths, but there is only 1 timeless set of immutable principles that governs the realm of human prosperity as physics governs the physical realm.

In short, there are 4 elements that families and children must master in order to prosper.

Later, we’ll take a look at how these 4 elements are used to realize individual potential while forging a close family bond at the same time. You’ll be amazed at how each of these simple elements clarifies life. When the path to success and happiness is clear, children become entrepreneurially minded adults who realize their potential, families act like teams, and they grow together.

### **Observe**

Prosperity is like any game. There is an objective, there is a field of play, there are players or positions, there are rules, and scoring. In order to play any game well we must be able to see the field, the objective, the players, and the game itself. And most importantly we must know what position we play best, so that we can time our actions and coordinate with team mates effectively. If a child can’t see the ‘game’ of life, if they can’t see their unique role, they won’t feel valuable or connected, they will fall behind, and they will drift away.

*“Learn the rules and then play better.” ~Albert Einstein*

Every marriage, parenting, sibling, business, and political conflict stems from an inability to observe the timeless cycle and sequence of tribal interdependence and prosperity.

## **Learn**

Prosperous teams realize their potential, not because they are smarter, but because they learn to learn quickly and together.

*“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot learn, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” ~ Alvin Toffler*

This is trickier than it sounds. Young children will laugh, skip, dance and sing because they haven't learned that the world is evaluating them. Ask a group of teenagers to stand up and sing, and you are very unlikely to get a volunteer because they are afraid to fail. Prosperity requires a commitment to learning. And learning, by definition includes risk and failure. Strong families and communities protect and support one another, and they develop the 'muscle' to risk failure and judgment in order to accelerate learning and accomplishment, so they prosper and grow together.

## **Package**

We all have a biologically embedded need to feel valuable. This need drives all human behavior. Prosperous teams are made up of interdependent heroes who learn to package their identity in the form of a valuable offer to be a contribution to others.

Their offer becomes their signature and their focus - something that serves to set them apart and increase their identity as a valuable contributor to their community.

A truly remarkable signature is worlds apart from the resume most of us were taught to develop. Skills and experience are essential, but they do not translate into success and happiness until they are properly packaged as a focused contribution to others.

## **Coordinate**

The ultimate skill that separates gangs from teams is the ability to coordinate with others. No-one accomplishes what they do without the support of many people. Our society perpetuates two myths;

The first is that if you can insulate yourself from change.

The second is that you can succeed alone. There is no such thing as independence in nature, anywhere.

The truth is that there are dramatic consequences to these two myths.

In order to produce the life experience we seek for ourselves, for our children and for our family we must relearn how to gain the voluntary and enthusiastic support of others. I can think of no better place to practice this than with your family, and no better time than childhood.

Even the best business schools in the world don't teach this.

**THE KEY IS CLARITY**

If the principles of success and happiness aren't clear, people drift toward anxiety and away from unity. Just remember, we prosper together or not at all. If we alienate ourselves, and each other, anxiety and brute force will win.

When we can't see the 4 elements of the hero framework we run the risk of losing connection with ourselves and each other.

### **Intrinsic Needs**

Humans have four intrinsic emotional needs;

1. Satisfying work
2. Connection
3. Meaning
4. Hope

These feelings are the experience that parents wish for their children, for themselves, and for their families.

**Satisfying work** is up there with love. We want to find our 'groove', our unique contribution, our 'thing'. We are drawn to 'craftspeople' of all kinds because their identity is magnetic, and our primal instinct craves it.

Instinctively we know that we need each other, and this is why we seek **connection**. But the key to connection is trust, and trust is earned *only* by being accountable. Tribal cultures and high

performing teams experience a magical connection because of their high level of accountability to one another. The path to higher feelings of connection is higher levels of accountability.

**Meaning** is also connected to our primal desire to feel needed and valuable. We want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, something that contributes to a greater good. Meaning gives purpose to our lives, makes us feel proud, and helps us persevere through the inevitable obstacles.

And when we put all of these factors together we find prosperity; the capacity to produce a surplus. An interdependent community that fosters this capacity causes us to feel **hopeful**, and we'll stick to it like glue.

These feelings are not reserved for people with higher IQ's, better grades, fancier diplomas, more money, natural born talent, or better looks. The vision of individual, family, and societal success we seek is a simple matter of seeing the underlying principles of prosperity, unschooling ourselves from brute force, and creating the future we intend.

So can this structure give your child what they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving world?

Absolutely.

## THE AIM OF HEROIC UNSCHOOLING

The major paradigm you'll experience heroically unschooling is this;

*We Must Give Our Children A New  
Definition Of Success And Teach  
Them The Skills To Realize It.*

Many parents are concerned about their children getting left behind in a rapidly evolving world.

Our aim at the Vaikido Hero Unschool is to provide the clarity and structure that parents and children need to succeed in the next century.

### **Heroic Unschooling plays out like this:**

#### **Self Awareness**

Developing a sense of self, who am I? What am I good at? How do I react in certain situations? What are my habits? Which habits serve me? Which habits get in the way?

#### **Self Actualization**

Knowing oneself is an enormous advantage, but it's when we explicitly package it as a valuable offer to others and use it to focus our efforts that it begins to payoff. Our concern for the traditional

success path is that it de-emphasizes creativity and real world accomplishment in an economy that increasingly requires it.

Knowing this, we cannot in good conscience delay teaching our children to declare and accomplish meaningful projects that will help them find their value, build their confidence and become their source of prosperity.

The reason so many young adults today are being left behind, is that they are entering the real world with no sense of direction or self worth and limited experience accomplishing significant things. 18-22 years old and beyond is too late to start the process of real world self discovery and actualization.

Heroic unschooling not only challenges students to declare personally meaningful and increasingly challenging projects, it *requires* it.

#### **Mutual Awareness**

There is a great deal of talk about socialization and 'people skills'. The most important differentiator of humans versus all other creatures is our ability to coordinate action through communication. Every significant human achievement required human communication.

Socialization is often cited as an educational goal. But should it be?

Socialization is a *process* of adopting the norms and behaviors of the surrounding group. Which norms, and which behaviors are we trying to instill? There is good reason to be concerned about most of the socialization that takes place in schools as very few adults fully recover from the childhood compromises they made in the name of socialization.

'People skills' on the other hand are vital, assuming of course that we are referring to understanding ourselves, building our value and coordinating with each other to solve important problems.

Vaikido teaches the art of what we call 'observation' for the express purpose of increasing both self awareness and mutual awareness.

This one aspect of Vaikido alone causes everyone who learns it to say some version of "why was I not shown this before now?!" This one aspect has saved marriages and resolved countless parent-child and sibling conflicts.

Perhaps the most important continual challenge that our children will face is choosing who to interact with and how. I would trade my college and MBA degrees for this single skill. When you go through the Parent Silver Belt Certification you will understand why.

### **Mutual Actualization**

This is the real world right here. Mutual actualization is where we coordinate as a team to learn, accomplish, grow and prosper. This pinnacle capability is built on the backs of the previous three and it's what separates the prosperous from the cogs.

The ultimate goal of heroic unschooling is to raise entrepreneurial children and build families that complement and support one another by;

- Truly knowing who they are
- Excelling at self direction
- Reading others accurately
- Aligning their actions and choices consistently

The practice of Vaikido will lead your children through a repeating cycle that enables them to perform in these vital 4 areas with higher and higher levels of proficiency.

The Vaikido belt system provides milestones to incentivize and recognize your children for their dedication and accomplishment.

Becoming a green belt in Vaikido is even more meaningful than a martial arts black belt.

## **THE 3 STEP ENTRY PROCESS FOR YOUR FAMILY**

The ultimate goal is to get your family heroically unschooling together. Our framework will help your children realize their potential while bringing your family together, but it requires parental leadership.

Leaders must always go first and demonstrate their commitment through their example. We want you, the parent, to *already* have a foundational level of proficiency *before* you get your children involved. And we want the same thing for your children *before* they enter the full program as well. We want you and your family to start off on the right foot, so we created a simple 3-step entry process.

### **STEP ONE: Parent Silver Belt Certification**

The Parent Silver Belt Certification is a live 2-day training for one or both parents to learn the fundamentals of Vaikido, and to sample first hand what you'll be asking your children to do. You'll be more successful as a leader if your children see you go first and if you gain a personal understanding of the process.

The 5 week Silver Belt Certification has four parts;

1. An online preparation course that you take prior to the live event
2. The Live training event itself
3. A three week project of your choosing
4. And an open book online test

### **STEP TWO: VaiKiddo Online Dragon Camp**

Once you complete the Silver Belt phase, your children (and your spouse) will be eligible to go through an online version of what you just did. With your coaching, they will learn the fundamentals of Vaikido, and complete a project of their choosing.

Once your children complete their Silver Belt Certification you will all have earned your Silver Belts and will be eligible to enroll in the Heroic Family Unschooling Experience.

### **STEP THREE: Heroic Family Unschooling Experience**

This is where the magical process of personal and family growth happens. About a week prior to each month, Fedex will deliver your family's training materials including; the Vaikido Module of the month, special training exercises and your project guidebooks. These materials are accompanied by several online training videos, a monthly group training call and a private Facebook Group.

Then, each month, everyone in the community declares a new project, works on it, and presents it via our private Facebook community. This single routine is chock full of real world application and growth disguised as fun.

The real world application, realizations, pride, growth, and joy that emanate from this process cannot be understated or aptly described.

## STEP ONE

### Silver Belt Certification

This two day live event will show you everything you need to know to get started. We will clearly lay out the entire Vaikido process.

The Vaikido Heroic Unschooling structure will massively simplify, integrate, and unify your family leadership efforts.

We will show you the Vaikido Hero Framework that will allow you to observe the dynamics of each individual in your family, so all of you can thrive together.

#### **Course includes;**

- Online access to the Principles course
- Vaikido Guidebook
- Project Challenge Guidebook
- Vaikido Welcome sack
  - Vaikido White Belt
  - Journal
  - Vaikido Sticker
- Silver Belt Alumni private FB group

## STEP TWO

### VaiKiddo Dragon Camp

Now it's your children's turn. Introduce them to a program that will be a welcome break from 'school', a huge head start in life, and a way to deepen their connection and commitment to personal, sibling and family success.

Your VaiKiddos will meet the 4 Vaikido dragon clans, learn which one they belong to, complete their first project, and earn their silver belt. This is a fun and exciting process where children work on knowing themselves and the principles of success and happiness.

#### **Online Dragon Camp includes;**

- Online access to VaiKiddos Principles
- VaiKiddo Guidebooks
- Vaikido Welcome sack
  - Vaikido White Belt
  - Journal and sticker
- VaiKiddos Alumni Private FB Page

## STEP THREE

### Heroic Family Unschooling

This experience brings it all together and makes it STICK. As parents there are so many things we want our children to experience, but sometimes it's difficult to be a prophet in our own land, and maintain a routine.

That's where we come in. Let us help you, guide your children. Use the structure of this program to add real world, entrepreneurial relevance to everything you already teach.

Watch how it harnesses your child's innate ability and teaches them the skills they need to stay ahead in a rapidly changing world.

**See the accompanying video and watch as Toby and Shelly give you a detailed walk through of these three steps.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who is Heroic Unschooling for?**

It's for entrepreneurial parents who want to take a greater role in their children's real world preparation. The roles of parent and family have diminished in society. We believe this needs to change. Children need more than 'education', they need parental leadership. Our **emphasis is on assisting parents** by providing a structure that will help your children realize their real world potential beginning at a much younger age while at the same time instilling your family values.

**What is the best age for my child to begin?** The best time was probably yesterday, second best is today. But seriously, somewhere around 6 seems to be right. Some children are ready earlier, but that's when our girls began and it worked.

**Does your program replace 'regular' school curriculum?** If by regular you mean reading, writing, arithmetic etc., then no. Our program delivers the **vital** real world preparation that 'school' cannot.

**Who are Toby and Shelly LaVigne?** We are entrepreneurial parents of 8 & 9 year old girls. We enjoy exploring and growing together in the outdoors. In addition to creating and delivering the program materials we follow the program religiously.

One of the aspects of this program that we cherish are the connections we get to make with like minded families like yours. We are creating the virtual 'village' we would like our children to grow up around.

### **How long does the program last?**

How well prepared do you want your children to be? We've been practicing Vaikido for over 6 years and there hasn't been a day without significant new learning, insight or breakthrough.

We see this program as our girls 'college', earned in monthly installments from age 6 to 18 and beyond. With this program we expect them to be fully functional adults with 'careers' already in progress by the time they are 18. We're not against college, and will fully support them if it

makes sense. However, we're not counting on college as a place for them to grow up, to find themselves, or to prepare for the real world. We see that as our job, now not later.

### **How do I begin?**

Register for the next Parent Silver Belt Certification ASAP. We understand that there are a lot of activities that compete for your attention. **This program is the antidote for that.** We hope that you will trust your instincts when we say that under prioritizing our children's real world preparation is the biggest risk they face. Everyday that you are not growing together is a day your children learn that family and life skills are less important. Is that harsh? In our observation it's reality.

Children who learn by their parent's example to understand themselves and life, grow up to become successful, happy adults who stick to their families like glue.

**Heroes don't wait, REGISTER TODAY!**

## What people are saying about Vaikido



*Homeschool, Unschool, Traditional School..it doesn't matter. I have learned more about myself and my family then any counseling or book has ever showed me.*

*Josh*

*Father, Marine, Christian*



*"For all that Vaikido has to offer, I'm most excited about how it is helping our family understand one another and become closer."*

*Heather*

*Mother, Life coach for kids, Former teacher*



*"It's nice to know how I fit because then I can do what matters and that means I can help myself and others better."*

*-Abigail (7)*



*"Daddy, I'm seeing things so differently now...it's like everything is changing and it feels good. Today was a good day."*

*-Caleb (10)*

# Register For The Silver Belt Certification Today

[Register Now](#)

