Just do it!

A few years ago, Pottstown High School career and tech students renovated a house on East Second Street under the supervision of their construction technology teacher. The students loved it and enjoyed a sense of accomplishment when it was done. The house sold for $74,000 in 2013.

But Pottstown still has an abundance of vacant homes waiting to be renovated.

Last year, a King Street house caught the eye of Kimberton Waldorf student Hannah Wolfram, who is restoring it as her senior project. She bought it for $29,500 with an investor and hopes to sell it for a profit this summer.

Although Wolfram plans to major in theater in college, Kimberton students are exceptionally well-rounded. The school embraces a hands-on learning philosophy that is worlds apart from the “drill and kill” methodology used in public schools.

At Kimberton, textbooks are rarely used. Students are prolific writers, but all reports are written and illustrated by hand, rather than on computers, until the 11th grade. Rote memorization and “teaching to the test” are scorned. Creative thinking is prized.

“Applying all my subjects to the real world really helps me to learn them,” Wolfram says. Although she is being mentored by professionals in such things as plumbing and wiring, Wolfram insists on doing everything herself.

“You can’t learn it any other way,” she says. Wolfram is even doing some roofing work (using a safety harness).

Wolfram is reporting her progress on Facebook: Hannah’s Senior Project.

Pottstown can learn a lot from Hannah Wolfram. Her view of her house — “It’s in an up-and-coming neighborhood” — her optimistic, “can-do” attitude, and her confidence is refreshing in a town filled with nay-saying.

I hope it won’t be long before our high school students start a new house renovation project. It will do a world of good for their self-confidence — and Pottstown’s, as well.