Welcome!

Welcome to AP Computer Science A, a fascinating, challenging, and fun class that teaches you how to program in Java, an industry standard programming language. Whether you've coded before or you're brand new to programming, you will finish this course with a strong understanding of programming. To succeed in this course you need to be self-motivated, interested in learning, and able to work independently. We will use a variety of in-class and online resources to learn how to program in Java, an industry standard programming language. At the end of it all in May we take the AP Computer Science A test using pencil and paper. The UC system recognizes AP Computer Science A in the category of College-Preparatory Elective ("g") under the discipline of Mathematics - Computer Science.

This is the first year of a revised and reorganized AP Computer Science A curriculum from the College Board. The class will involve many in-class activities as well as several excellent online resources when appropriate, including a new AP Classroom created by the College Board.

Expectations:

1. Arrive prepared: Get here on time, with your notebook, paper, pen, and a great attitude.

2. Participate: Take notes, ask questions, apply yourself during class.

3. Try hard: Put in an honest effort, ask questions, practice, study, do your best.

Please follow school rules, be respectful of everyone, use appropriate language and help maintain a productive learning environment.

By default I expect you to take the AP exam for this class in May (May 8, 2020 to be specific.) If you do not wish to take the AP exam, you will be required to take a final exam that I create that is of comparable difficulty (students taking the AP exam will not be required to take an in-class final exam.)

I encourage you to work together and help each other on assignments and I expect and require that you complete your own work in the end. Your assignments should not look exactly like anyone else's. Copying other people's work and claiming it as your own is cheating and will result in a cheating referral to the administration and lowered grade in the class. It seems easy, and perhaps harmless to copy code from one window and paste it into another, then turn it in, but this is unethical and dishonest.

Each student is required to sign a class honor code promising to behave in an ethical manner and do their own work for this class. Sadly, every year I catch someone cheating. Let's have this year be the year that doesn't happen.

Website: I regularly post assignments and info on www.dogatemyhomework.com .

Cell Phones:

Cell phones are awesome. They are also a tremendous distraction during class. Because of that all students will silence their phones and place them in numbered pockets at the front of the class at the start of each period and retrieve them as class ends each day.

Grading:

Your grade will be broken down as follows: 5% Academic Preparedness (that you take and can show me your notes on paper or electronically (see below) and that you apply yourself well during class), 45% for class work and assignments, and 50% for tests and quizzes.

Notes:

I expect and require that you take notes for my class. Your notes may be electronic (for example in a Google Doc) or in a notebook.

Software

If you have a decent computer at home, you may want to install Java and a compiler so that you can work at home as well as in class. This is not required. The two things you need are the Java JDK and the jGRASP compiler, both of which are free.

Here is a link for Java:

> https://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html
> Select Java SE 8u221, accept the user license, then click to download the JDK. You may be asked to create a free Oracle account, go ahead and do this.

Here is a link for jGRASP:

> https://spider.eng.auburn.edu/user-cgi/grasp/grasp.pl?;dl=download_jgrasp.html

(Don't type in these links, go to my web site, open the PDF for this syllabus, then click on the links.)

Help:

Your success in this class will depend upon your willingness to take initiative to get help. I am available to help during Tutorial as well as during class so don't be shy, ask for help! You can also find help with Java all over the Internet. Staying organized, staying caught up, and applying yourself are the best ways to succeed.

Contact Info:

The best way to contact me is by email: whays.ahs@wscuhsd.k12.ca.us. My phone number is 707.824.2362. Please call before 7:30 or after school to not interrupt classes. I am in room TC1 (the Maker Lab.) I also have a web site where I post assignments, links, and help: www.dogatemyhomework.com

I look forward to an exciting and challenging year!