Wheaton High School
Technology Academy
Advanced Placement Computer Science

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP Computer Science A introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language. Students master the basics of Java and are prepared to pass the College Board AP Computer Science A Exam at the end of the school year. **AP Computer Science A is equivalent to the class taken by a Computer Science major the first semester of college. It is a fast-paced, challenging course.**

Prerequisites

This course is meant to be a first time introduction to computer science, and does not require students to come in with any computer programming experience. However, **we recommend that students take our Programming 1 course prior to APCSA.** Students who have completed our Programming 1 course will be able to apply knowledge of concepts covered in the Programming 1 course to the more advanced setting of the AP course. **If students have not taken Programming 1 and find the AP course too fast-paced, and they have utilized the extra supports, they may change to a Programming 1 class, if there is space available.** Students should contact their counselor if they are considering this option.

Units of Study

Unit 1 Primitive Types
Unit 2 Using Objects
Unit 3 If Statements
Unit 4 Iteration/Loops
Unit 5 Writing Classes
Unit 6 Arrays
Unit 7 ArrayLists
Unit 8 2-D Arrays
Unit 9 Inheritance
Unit 10 Recursion
Unit 11 Review

Projects

College Board APCSA Exam Date Thursday, May 6, 2021

CLASS POLICIES AND GRADING

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to attend every ZOOM session. Students should enter the ZOOM session before it is scheduled to begin. If the student arrives after it begins, they are marked unexcused tardy. If a student is unable to attend, they are marked absent. **Do not provide evidence of an excused absence to the teacher.** Excused absent is NOT one of the options offered to teachers. The secretary, however, does have the capability to enter excused absences into the system. To do this, the secretary needs an excuse from the student's parent or guardian.

Grading

Ninety percent of the assignments are evaluated for accuracy. Ten percent of the assignments are evaluated for completion. The types of assignments are listed below.

- Watch videos
- Review Sample Programs
- Do coding exercises
- Complete written assignments (coding practice)
- Complete College Board Progress Checks
- Complete College Board Free Response Questions
- Complete AP Practice Exams
- Take Unit Tests

Due Dates and Deadlines

- **Due Date.** A **due date** is the date students are expected to submit an assignment.
    - If no assignment is received by the due date, a Z is entered in the Gradebook. The Z counts as zero points. Students may still do the work if they see a Z in the Gradebook.
- **Deadline**. A **deadline** is the last date a teacher will accept an assignment.
    - Work turned in after the due date, but before the deadline will receive credit, but will be penalized 10%.
    - An assignment not turned in or turned in after the deadline date will not earn credit (0%).
    - The deadline for any work in a unit is the unit test day.
    - If a student has a written accommodation for extra time, they may turn the work in by the deadline for full credit.
- **Absences.** Students who are excused absent or unexcused absent are NOT excused from the work. They must still do the work.

50% policy Graded assessments and assignments will receive a minimum 50% grade, provided they meet the basic requirements of the assignment and show that the student made an honest attempt to complete the assignment. Assignments that are less than half finished do not meet the basic requirements and will receive a 0%. An honest attempt means the assignment was started and the work the student has produced shows evidence of making progress on the relevant standard(s) that are being assessed regardless of product or accuracy.

Reassessment All programming exercises may be worked on until they are accurate. Students may receive teacher feedback on their programs while they are working on them.

Academic Offenses Various digital tools are used to detect cheating. If a student cheats, the student will receive a zero for that programming assignment or test.

Academic Support

- For **immediate, remote support**, use the built-in messaging functionality to ask the teacher for support in debugging your code. Use this feature. It's powerful.
- Virtual Check-in Students may come to their Virtual Check-in on Wednesday for face-to-face online help. See the schedule below. This schedule may change in any week that doesn't have five full days. See the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 schedules to identify those weeks.

Pd 1	10:05 - 10:25
Pd 2	10:30 - 10:50
Pd 3	10:55 - 11:15
Pd 4	12:30 - 12:50
Pd 5	12:55 - 1:15
Pd 6	1:20 - 1:40
Pd 7	1:45 - 2:05
Pd 8	2:10 - 2:30

- Students who are substantially behind will be **required** to come to Focused Student Intervention Monday and Thursday 2:45 - 3:15. If you are invited, you must come.