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 including the College Board's AP Classroom system to learn how to program in Java, an industry standard programming language. At the end of it all in May you will take the AP Computer Science A exam.

Expectations:

1. Arrive prepared: Arrive 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.

                        When you don't understand something the first time through, set aside time to try again another day.

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

Most students in the class take the AP exam for this class in May. 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 a lower grade in the class. It seems easy, and perhaps harmless to copy someone else's code from one window and paste it into your code, then turn it in, but this is unethical and dishonest. It might also seem OK at first glance to work with classmates on a share document, getting an assignment done, but that is not allowed. You must do your own work!

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 have caught someone cheating. Let's have this year be the year that doesn't happen.

I use the Google Classroom to post assignments, announcements and resources. I also post information on my web site: www.dogatemyhomework.com .

Grading:

Your grade will be broken down as follows: 50% for class work and assignments, and 50% for tests and quizzes.

Help:

Your success in this class will depend upon your willingness to take initiative to get help. Speak up during class, ask for help if you are stuck. I also will reply to questions that you send me by email: whays@wscuhsd.org. I also regularly post videos where I work out assignments which you can watch on your own time or during class. 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. Please don't assume that you're the only one having a question or a problem. I love helping students figure out problems and get their assignments to work.

Contact Info:

The best way to contact me is by email: whays@wscuhsd.org. My classroom phone number is 707.824.2362, but my office is in a different room. I will check my voicemail daily, but you'll get a quicker response if you email me.

I look forward to an exciting and challenging year!

Finally, and to me surprisingly, they make me say this: AP® and Advanced Placement® are registered trademarks of the College Board. Used with permission. They didn't say what size the font had to be, though. Perhaps I'm overdoing it, but I didn't want this to be a big deal on my syllabus. ☺