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 to class on time (to Zoom classes, and hopefully someday in-person classes), 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. 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.

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.

Zoom Etiquette:

Obviously online learning is quite different from being together in a classroom in person. To get us started in a good direction I want you to know what I expect from you during our Zoom sessions, once these start the week of August 24. Here are the basics:

- Your participation in our scheduled classes via Zoom is required. This counts as attendance.
- Find a quiet space, if possible, and be seated at a table or desk, such that you could write on paper if necessary. Have a notebook and something to write with handy.
- Arrive to class a few minutes early or on time. Sign in with your first and last name.
- Mute yourself in Zoom unless you are ready to speak. Keep your camera on.
- Use your physical hand, the chat system, or raised hand emoji to get my attention.
- Conduct yourself with professionalism and maturity. Respect your classmates, work to foster an environment of cooperation and positivity, and please follow our school dress code. All contributions, images and backgrounds coming from you must be school appropriate.
- Be present and engaged and do not use your cell phone or browser for non-class related activity during our live classes.
- Speak up if you need help or are having trouble with anything.

Help:

Your success in this class will depend upon your willingness to take initiative to get help. We'll be holding class zooms twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays) and there will be time for questions then. I also will reply to questions that you send me by email: whays@wscuhsd.org. I may also hold office hours for drop in help, I'll be figuring things out as we move forward. In any case, 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. 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. Really!

Contact Info:

The best way to contact me is by email: whays@wscuhsd.org. My classroom phone number is 707.824.2362, but since we're not at school, that's a little silly. I will check my voicemails three times a week, 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. Oh well. ☺