

## Welcome!

This course is an introduction to computer programming, a fun class where you will be exposed to several different programming systems in a non-threatening environment. Four of the units we will do are:

- **Python**, a widely used and popular open source programming language that allows for easy entry ([www.python.org](http://www.python.org)).
- **Scratch** (<http://scratch.mit.edu/>), which offers a graphical interface to programming and easy to master graphics components.
- **Arduino** microcontrollers ([www.arduino.cc](http://www.arduino.cc)) using Processing, a language that has roots in Java, an industry standard. Arduinos are computing devices which interact with the physical world through sensors and switches using electronics.
- **Micro:bit**: small programmable microcontrollers that we program using Python.

This is a beginning programming class: even if you have never programmed before you can succeed alongside students with more experience or interest. Nearly every assignment provides opportunities to do self-directed extensions and explorations.

Students wishing to be part of a more focused and challenging programming class are encouraged to consider AP Computer Science A, also offered at Analy. The AP class is taught in Java. For more information, talk with Mr. Hays.

## 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.

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](http://www.dogatemyhomework.com) .

## Grading:

The majority of your grade will be based on you completing our class assignments as well as tests, quizzes and some individual projects. The grading breakdown is to the right.

Assignments:	70%
Tests and quizzes:	25%
Final exam:	5%

## 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 (Mondays and Thursdays) and there will be time for questions then. I also will reply to questions that you send me by email: [whays@wscuhsd.org](mailto: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! 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](mailto: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 a great year!