

AP Computer Science Principles

Teacher info:

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1. Course Description

Welcome to AP Computer Science Principles. I hope this class will be interesting and enjoyable, as I will do my best to make it so. AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce you to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives you the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. In our course you will be using MIT App Inventor to create mobile apps for Android Devices.

At the end of this course there is an Advanced Placement Exam. During the course you will be creating artifacts that will be part of the AP Exam score. The breakdown of the AP Exam Score:

12% - Explore Performance Task (done in the first semester)

28% - Create Performance Task (done near Spring Break)

60% - Multiple Choice AP Exam (first week of May)

There is a link to a detailed course description on my web site.

2. Our Textbooks

With the rapid change of computer science it is not really effective for public schools to purchase textbooks. For this reason, we will be using online resources, some lecture notes, and in-class discussion in leau of a text.

3. Optional Software for your home computer:

You will not be expected to do any programming **on a computer** at home (I cannot expect that every student has a computer at home). Our programming exercises will be done using App Inventor.

4. Tardy Policy

Schoolwide tardy policy.

5. Grading Policy

20% - Portfolio Entries

50% - Quizzes/Tests

30% - Performance Tasks

Grading scale	92 - 100	A	77 - 80	C+
	90 - 92	A-	70 - 77	C
	88 - 90	B+	68 - 70	C-
	82 - 88	B	60 - 68	D
	80 - 82	B-	<60	F

6. Classwork Requirements

Exams	There should be two exams plus the final each semester. The exams will be a combination of performance tasks and multiple choice questions.
Quizzes	Expect one every two weeks.
Portfolio Entries	I will be assessing our in-class work through your portfolio entries. The portfolio is your own Google Site that we will set up in the first week of class.
Performance Tasks	You will have a practice Create and Explore Performance Task as well as the “Real” one that will be submitted for the AP Exam grading.
Participation	Computer Science is meant to be a collaborative field of study and we will have activities where you will be expected to participate within discussions/tasks.

7. Required Materials:

- Notebook