AP Computer Science Principles

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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:

   30% - Create Performance Task (done near Spring Break)
   70% - Multiple Choice AP Exam (all have 4 answer options) (first week of May)
       (57 single-select multiple-choice, 5 single-select from reading passage about a computing innovation, and 8 multiple-select multiple-choice: select 2 answers)

   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 lieu 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 internet access at home). Our programming exercises will be done using MIT App Inventor.

4. Tardy Policy

   Schoolwide tardy policy.

5. Grading Policy

	20% - Programming Tasks			
	20% - Check Your Understanding/AP Classroom			
	40% - Tests and Quizzes			
	20% - Final Exam (Multiple Choice & Create Performance Task)			
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. <u>Classwork Requirements</u>

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.
Programming Tasks	I will be assessing our Programming Tasks in Various Ways.
Performance Tasks	You will have a practice Create Performance Task as well as the "Real" one that will be submitted for the AP Exam grading.
Check Your Understanding and AP Classroom	Self-checks at the end of each lesson and practice Multiple Choice in preparation for the AP Exam in May

7. <u>Required Materials:</u>
- Notebook
- Chromebook