
WHAT IS AP COMPUTER SCIENCE?

<http://mcompscim.weebly.com/>

Do you want to learn how to use Microsoft Word or PowerPoint?

Do you want to set up a website?

Do you like to tinker with computers and upgrade components?

Do you like to play video games at home or on your phones?

AP Computer Science will not help you do or learn *any* of those things, but all of them are made possible by programmers who wrote the instructions that allow computers, including smartphones, to cater to your needs and wants. Also known as software or app developers, programmers enable other people to use technology to connect, create, and entertain.

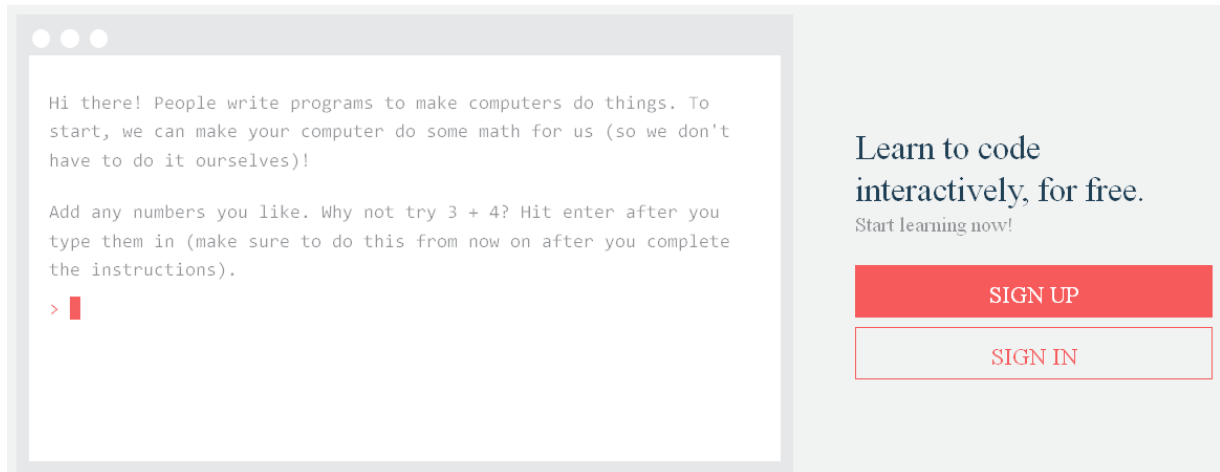
This course is designed for students interested in a rigorous college-level course in computer programming, with instruction in the Java programming language. Having prior programming experiences (BASIC, C++, Python, etc.) would be very helpful, but not expected.

You're probably still wondering, but what *is* programming?

Head over to <http://light-bot.com/hocflash.html>, and check out **Lightbot**. You should play this game and finish all the levels. Do it with a friend, but don't look at their answers.



For a more in-depth experience, try <http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/javascript>, which interactively teaches you JavaScript, a different (and useful) programming language. You will do a lot better in class if you can complete all the levels by the end of summer. Again, work with friends or classmates.



You can do these over the summer to be better prepared when the new semester begins.

Incidentally, here are two programs for girls and young women who want to learn to develop software and business ideas. Unfortunately, they're closed for applications this year, but you can sign up on the sites to be notified when the 2015 application process begins:

- Girls Who Code (<http://girlswhocode.com/>): Watch a short video overview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVwrO1AxhJo>
- Technovation (<http://www.technovationchallenge.org/home/>)



AP Computer Science will challenge you like never before, but it will also be fun like no other class. You will learn to teach the computer to do *stuff*, and in the process discover the intelligence required to perform the simplest tasks. It will be up to you to figure out how to solve each problem.

If you have any questions after checking out the resources mentioned above, you can usually find me during 7th period in Rm. 358, or after school, usually in Rm. 350.

Mr. Lee