**AP Computer Science Principles – Course Expectations**

Mr. Brown Room 433

2019-2020

**Goals**

The primary goals of AP Computer Science Principles (CSP) are:

* Introduce you to the central ideas of computer science through investigations and creative projects.
* Practice and enhance your computational thinking skills, engaging in activities that show how computing changes the world.
* Explore big ideas of Computer Science including abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the internet, and global impact.
* Prepare you for the AP CS Principles performance tasks and exam.

**Course Structure**

CSP is project-based course.  You will work individually and as a team on projects related to the big ideas of computer science.  Your AP score is partially determined by your performance on two major projects that you will work on during term 3. By the end of the course, you should have a broad understanding of modern computer science.  You should find CSP fast-paced and very active.

**Projects and homework**

Most of the project work will be done in class and sometimes as.  Homework will consist mostly of research relating to computer science topics, project design and writing reflections of your experience working on projects.

**Assessments**

Each term will have several quizzes and tests.  Tests are typically at the end of units. All tests are cumulative. It is important that you keep yourself organized.   Make sure you understand errors you make on a test or quiz because you most likely will see comparable questions again.



**Academic Integrity**

Please read the Student Handbook regarding the School’s policy on academic integrity. Any incident of cheating will be handled as described in the student handbook. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying assignments, lending assignments to be copied by others, copying programs from the internet and turning them in as your own, etc.

You should cite in comments any code in your solution that did not write. You can include statements such as “I worked with Margie Lee on this” or “I found this code on stackoverflow.com”

Repeated incidents of cheating could result in being withdrawn the course. Don’t jeopardize your integrity. Cheating, in any form, is NEVER worth it.

**Extra Help**

I am available most mornings block 1 and some days after school.  I will announce details of my extra help schedule once the club schedule is set.

**Grades**

**Terms 1-3**

Grades will be calculated as follows.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** |
| **Tests and Quizzes** | 60% | 45% | 30% |
| **Creative Projects** | 20% | 40% | 60% |
| **Labs** | 20% | 15% | 10% |

**Term 4**

Because of the AP exam and seniors graduating term 4 will have a different grading scheme.

* Seniors – your grade will be the average of your grades for terms 1-3.
* Juniors – your grade will be calculated as:
* the average of your grades for terms 1-3 – 50%
* post AP exam projects – 50%

Note that grading policies are subject to change and will be discussed as a class before any change occurs.

**Late Policy**

An assignment is late when **any** of the following are true:

* A student is present in class but does not turn in the assigned work when due.
* A student does not submit an electronic assignment on the date it is due and does not contact Mr. Brown with an extension request.
* A student fails to show their missed work by the end of the class day they return from an excused absence.
* A student takes a prearranged absence but fails to inform Mr. Brown and/or fails to submit the assignment.

For unexcused late projects, the late penalty will be 10% of the points per calendar day (including weekends, drop-days, vacations, and holidays) it is late.

**Classroom Policies**

**Absences**

* If you are out with a short, temporary illness…
* Take time to feel better.  If you are able, check Canvas for homework and missed classwork. The homework assigned is not due until the next day (or days depending on those missed).
* When you return, check with a student about missed work first.  When Mr. Brown checks homework, show him what you have and let him know your plan to complete the missed work.
* If you are out with an extended illness…
* Focus on getting better.  Upon your return, meet with Mr. Brown to select due dates and catch up with missed work.   Do not email Mr. Brown “what am I missing”.  You aren’t getting better if you stress about CS!
* If you have a pre-arranged absence… (like a field trip, vacation, etc.)
* **Option 1:** Check Canvas while you are gone and complete work according to the schedule.  This is the best option if no major assignment is due.  Show your work to Mr. Brown the day you return to school for full credit.
* **Option 2:** Meet with Mr. Brown and present a plan to make up work. This is the best option if you need extra help navigating Canvas or if a major assignment is due.

**Electronics**

* Taking notes on a computer is not allowed without expressed permission from Mr. Brown.
* You will check-in your cell phones at the beginning of class.

**Starting Class**

* The first three minutes of class….
* are organizational time for you, time to chat with your peers, or **time to use the restroom**.  It is time to decompress from the walk up the stairs, fill up your water bottle, set up your computer, or ask Mr. Brown a super quick question.
* After these three minutes…
* it’s DC Time!  Begin working on the work on the board or do the thing Mr. Brown tells you to do.

**Vacancies from Class**

* The bathroom…
* You have three minutes after the bell to get settled.  This is also bathroom time.   If it’s an emergency, please excuse yourself and check-in with Mr. Brown after class
* The nurse…
* I will sign a health pass regardless of what I’m doing.