Welcome to AP Computer Science Principles 2020-2021!

I am super excited to have you in this class and look forward to an awesome year! For those of you taking an AP (Advanced Placement) class for the first time, you may be wondering:

- **What is an AP class?** An AP class is taught as a college-level course, but it is taken in high school. An AP class differs from an honors class because the textbook and materials are written at a college-level and the GPA weight for an AP class is greater. All AP classes require a strong work ethic, maturity, and self-discipline.

  o AP teachers work closely with their students, giving them the opportunity to reason, analyze, and understand for themselves. As a result, AP students frequently find themselves developing new confidence in their capacity for college studies and academic success.

  o Strong correlations exist between AP success and college success. •Rigorous course loads help you stand out when applying for colleges and scholarships. • Preparation for other classes (especially AP) that you will take as an upperclassman and in college. **AP classes also provide students with an opportunity to earn college credit by making a qualifying score on the AP exam taken in May.**

- **What is AP Computer Science Principles?**

1. APCSP is a year-long course that introduce students to the central ideas and practices of computational thinking, computing/computer science foundations, and engaging activities that demonstrates the concepts of computer programming.

2. This course is rigorous and rich in computational content, which includes computational and critical thinking and skills while engaging in the creative aspects of computing.

3. There is no designated programming language for this course and programming is a component of the course; APCSP is not a programming course; however, about 50% of the course involves programming.

4. Your test will be broken down into TWO-part, 75 multiple choice questions and a submission of your AP Digital Portfolio.

- **What is expected of me as an APCSP Student?**

  *Your CSP Journal (Compensation Notebook) is the most IMPORTANT class material needed for this course.
  *You will use your CSP journal in class EVERYDAY.
  * You need to possess strong teamwork skills. This course is designed to work in majority collaborative settings.
  *There will be many group projects that will require you to work with a partner.
  *You need to be a good writer and listener; a high level of writing is expected from all students in the course.
  *You need to take notes in class and at home. **Note Taking is VERY important in this class.**
  *You need to be comfortable participating, leading classroom discussions and presenting to your teachers and peers.

While you are enjoying your summer please take the time out to explore the website www.code.org during your free time. This will be one of many mainstream platforms we will be using in APCSP.

I so look forward to having you in class. Let's go APCSP Hornets!

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