Syllabus

AP Computer Science Principles, 2019-2020
Mr. Rhodewalt, Rancho Mirage High School, Room 608 (brhodewalt@psusd.us)
http://www.rhodewalt.com/APCSP.html

This class will be an unusual and exciting exploration of computer science. According to the official College Board page, "AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course. Students cultivate their understanding of computer science through working with data, collaborating to solve problems, and developing computer programs as they explore concepts like creativity, abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the internet, and the global impact of computing." Read more here.

Like all AP classes, there will be a test at the end of the course (May 15). Unlike most other AP classes, there are two other assessments that contribute to your final AP score; these are the two performance tasks, both due April 30, at midnight Eastern Time (9 p.m. Pacific Time).

If this is your first AP class, you will probably be surprised at the amount of independence you will have. This is of course a double-edged sword: without someone holding your feet over the fire, it will be easy to fall behind. Don't.

Homework is assigned occasionally.

Attendance

You are expected to arrive before class, set up your things, and begin work before the start of class. You will be marked tardy if you walk in after the start of class. If you are late repeatedly, there is an escalating series of consequences. (See the Tardy Policy in Google Classroom.) If you need to be reminded to get to work after the bell, you and I will meet outside of class to discuss this.

If you miss a class, you are responsible for determining your missing assignments and turning them in the day after you return. Assignments are posted each morning in the room and on the classroom web site.

Required Materials

Each day you should have the following:

- Pencils and eraser, pen (black or dark blue)
- Lined paper, stored safely: spiral notebook or three-ring binder
- Your Chromebook

Tear off and return this portion by Tuesday, August 13.   Date: _____

I have read and understand the AP Computer Science Principles, 2019-2020 (Rhodewalt) Syllabus.

Parent name: _____ Student name: _____

Parent signature: _____ Student signature: _____

Parent phone: _____ Parent email: _____

Homework and Classwork

Homework will be assigned occasionally, to be completed overnight. You should contact your classmates briefly to compare results, and fix any errors you find. Homework and classwork will be tracked in Synergy but will not be counted in your overall grade.

Gum/Food/Drink

Food and drink cause messes in the classroom and so are prohibited. (Gum is prohibited on campus by school policy.) Please do not bring gum, food, or drink (other than water) into the classroom.

Personal Electronics

We will use calculators and Chromebooks in class all year. You rarely need your cell phone or your ear buds. Turn off your phone and put it and your ear buds away before you enter the classroom. I will confiscate these if I see them. Confiscated items can only be retrieved by your parent, at the end of the day. Repeated events can result in referral to the assistant principal for detention or other consequences.

Class Participation and Citizenship

You will be expected to participate actively throughout the period: answer and ask questions, work in groups, respect the speaker, follow instructions, and be prepared each day. Responsibility, respect, citizenship, work ethic, organization – so-called "soft skills" – are important so I will track them in Synergy. Your grade is based on what you learn, and so these soft skills will not be counted in your overall grade. A classroom economy in Room 608 will reward you for active participation.

Classroom Economy

You will participate in an elaborate system for managing behavior and resources in this classroom. Pay close attention when I start talking about Bogus Bucks!

Grading Components

Your entire grade is based on how much you learn. You will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of each concept during the semester. Sometimes, you may choose to make an appointment with me outside class to demonstrate mastery.

Letter grades follow the PSUSD adopted scale (90-100% = A, 80-89.9% = B, 70-79.9% = C, etc.). Per the department and district policies, grades will not be rounded. A grade of 79.9% is a C.

I update Synergy within 24 hours for most assignments.