



McLean High School Course Description and Expectations

Course: **AP Computer Science**

Prerequisites:

You need the Introduction to Computer Science class or have a thorough knowledge of Java including Objects. Students should have a high level of motivation and the desire to think. Students should be able to use their time wisely. The AP exam is a paper-pencil test and is not on the computer.

Short Course Description:

An elective course available to all students who have completed Introduction to Computer Science, APCS follows the College Board topic outline. This course carries an additional 0.5 quality points in GPA calculation and prepares students to take the APCS Exam given each May.

Summer Assignment:

There is no summer assignment although students should practice their programming skills

Work Load during the School Year:

Each unit is approximately 2 weeks. There are notes to read, exercises to do, and several labs to complete in each unit. The culminating activity for each unit is a major program to write and an AP style test (Multiple Choice and Free Response). There is a midterm, which simulates the APCS A Exam which will determine which students will go on the APCS AB material.

Special Course Information:

According to the U.S. Department of Labor career information, seven of the fastest growing careers through 2010 heavily involve computers. These careers require that a prospective employee develop abilities such as problem analysis, organizing a solution, and knowledge of computer control. The AP Computer Science course is a great opportunity for students to have more than just introductory experience in these areas. In general, students develop quality problem solving skills. The AP CS course is one of the few places in the high school curriculum where students can develop high-level thinking skills

Available Support:

The computer Lab is open all lunches during fifth period and after school Monday-Thursday. Students can create a Java environment at home by going to <http://academics.tjhsst.edu/compsci/> and following the directions at the top of the page.

Student Quote:

"It's a very flexible course. You will get a deadline and a list of things to do and then you are free to do as you wish. You learn to balance your workload very quickly."

Alex Krall

"You can't treat this class like regular Computer Science. Some of the programs are hard but if you but if you like programming you will like the course"

Greg Kitson

Please sign indicating that you have read and understand the nature of this AP course.

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student signature

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parent signature

