



MAMARONECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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News Release

Mamaroneck School District Launches New Elementary Computer Science & Coding Curriculum Beginning in Grade 3 *District to Celebrate Hour of Code Week Dec. 7-11 in Every School, Every Grade Level*

MAMARONECK, NY, December 2, 2015 -- Computer Science and Coding have become an integral part of the Mamaroneck School District's curriculum, with a [new elementary computer science program](#) launching in January, 2016, and more advanced coding and programming continuing through middle school and high school. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will learn how to program computers -- writing programs to solve problems, create digital art and craft interactive stories -- using web-based software through [code.org](#) and [Scratch](#), a coding platform developed by MIT.

“As we prepare for our Hour of Code activities throughout the District, we are simultaneously getting ready to launch our new elementary computer science and coding curriculum for students in grades three through five,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert I. Shaps. “This exciting new initiative will make coding a part of the regular school day for our youngest students and help lay a critical foundation for the skills these students will acquire in the upper grades and even beyond high school.”

Currently, students in grades 6-8 at Hommocks Middle School participate in a two-week sequence in basic computer programming principles (also using Scratch) and are then able to put their coding skills to the test as they design, build and program robots to complete a variety of tasks. Once at MHS, students can opt to enroll in a variety of computer science courses, which explore everything from more advanced coding and computer hardware functionality to web design and mobile app development. AP Computer Science, an advanced college-level course, is offered in the third year of the computer science sequence and hones students' programming skills.

“The level and depth that you go into at each level [elementary, middle, and high school] is different, but knowing the terminology that's used in computer science and computing is essential, and we should be introducing students to this as early as possible,” says MHS Computer Science Teacher Jigar Jadav in a [preview video illustrating MUFSD's commitment to Computer Science and Hour of Code](#).

Since the inception of the computer science program at Mamaroneck High School three years ago, the number of students taking computer science classes has grown from 20 students in the

first year to 125 students this year. Additionally, more than 40 students are participating in the computer science, robotics and coding clubs. “In the past few years, our students have participated in many local, regional and national competitions, and inevitably they fare on par or above top schools across the country. In fact, just this past week, we’ve had several teams of students submit entries into the Verizon App Competition, and we’re looking forward to those results,” Jadav says.

Next week, Dec. 7-11, Mamaroneck Public Schools, along with millions of students in 180+ countries around the world, will celebrate Hour of Code as part of Computer Science Week. Every student at every school and grade level throughout the district will spend a minimum of one hour participating in an organized instructional activity around coding.

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