Academy Update

In light of the recent events and news within our local community and our country, we would like to remind our students and families that the CS Academy staff is here to support students. Please reach out to your computer science teacher or to the director, Mrs. Adams, if you need anything. We care deeply about our students and want to help you.

December was a month of giving back to the community for the CS Academy. Academy students led two Hour of Code events, reaching about 90 younger students and introducing them to computer science. All three of our clubs participated in these events. You can read about the event led by the Maker’s Club in the Student Spotlight section below.

We also hosted our monthly lunch speaker, and the Mobile Programming class went on the first virtual field trip of the year, the Silicon Valley field trip. While we aren’t able to do field trips in person this year, the virtual field trips are still a valuable experience for students, allowing them to hear directly from CEOs, software developers, and other professionals in the field.

In January, we are looking forward to the CS Academy Game Day on January 10, which will be a fun way for students in the Academy to connect with each other and see students who aren’t in their classes this semester. Be sure to RSVP using the form sent out via ParentSquare and NEO.

Student Work

In Exploring Computer Science students completed their final projects using the programming language P5js.

Eli Myers and his team created a Tetris game. Although it still has a few bugs, it is an impressive application of what they have learned this semester. To play their version of Tetris, click here.

Upcoming Events

1/10 CS Academy Game Day
1/12 12:15-12:45pm January Lunch Speaker: Data Science, Computer Science & Statistics (Panel with UCSB Senior Capstone Students)
2/3 12:45-1:15pm February Lunch Speaker: Ontraport
2/9, 2/10, 2/11 4-5pm SB Tech (virtual) Field Trip
2/23, 2/24, 2/25 4-5pm Silicon Beach (virtual) Field Trip
3/3 12:45-1:15pm March Lunch Speaker: Alum Zach Parent from Google

Club Meetings

Mondays 12:00-12:45 pm Maker’s Club
Wednesdays 3:30-4:00 pm Game Development Club
Every other Wednesday 12:15-
Cole W. created a platformer game. The character can be controlled by ‘a’, ‘d’, ‘r’, ‘f’, and space keys. To play the game, click here. To see the code for the project, click on the </> button at the top.

Recent Events

**Lunch speaker**

Our December lunch speaker, Spencer Smith, gave a talk titled “The Brain, Artificial Intelligence, and a Career in Research.” Dr. Smith is part of UCSB’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and UCSB’s Brain Initiative. In addition to telling us about his work, Dr. Smith told us about the educational path to becoming a scientific researcher and shared advice about college, graduate school, and internships. Of particular interest, graduate students are paid to do research, so they don’t have to take on more student debt to continue their education.

We would like to thank Dr. Smith for taking time to speak with the CS Academy students!

**Silicon Valley Field Trip**

Although I was very sad to hear that we would not be able to visit Silicon Valley, like in years past, I was still very excited to participate in the events that the CS Academy put together for us virtually. I thought it was pretty amazing to hear from the CEO of a company (Swit) and see how their vision was brought to life. Being able to see computer science outside of a classroom was inspiring and I was very grateful that people took time out of their day to talk to us about it.

Perhaps even more inspiring was being able to hear directly from past CS Academy students. It was so nice to hear from people who had gone through the same things that we are going through and see how they were able to pursue their interests in computer science in the real world. They were so nice, confident, and informative. They truly made an effort to be authentic and encourage us to pursue computer science as far as we can dream it. It was one of my favorite guest speaker events to attend.

--Jocelyn Gallardo

CS Academy in the News

**Santa Barbara High School Computer Science Academy Opens SB Maker’s Space**

The CS Academy is eagerly awaiting the opening of the new SB Maker’s space once clubs have permission to start on campus again. For his final accomplishment as outgoing director, Mr. Johnston laid the groundwork for the transformation of the Robotics lab which had once been the locker room for the old SBHS gym. It began last March with the purchase of state-of-the-art robotics machinery, professional
safety equipment, multi-toner 3D printers, power tools, and storage spaces fulfilling a $15,000 grant from Williams-Corbett Foundation. Next he petitioned the CS Academy Foundation to fund the $17,000 renovation of the lab space making it ADA compliant. The only thing missing now is the students!! As Mr. Johnston said “...[this will finally give students] an exciting hub to creatively push and further their learning in robotics, 3D printing and other technical areas of interest.” To read more, click on the link to the Noozhawk article above!

Student Spotlight

Jocelyn Gallardo

My name is Jocelyn Gallardo and I have had the pleasure this year to be the Maker’s Club Secretary. When the pandemic hit, there was a learning curve for me and the other members of our leadership team to figure out how we were going to make the club fun and accessible to the academy. In the end, our leadership team pulled together and we were determined to make this year the most successful year for our club, despite the circumstances.

For example, this past December we put on a volunteer event for our club and other members of the academy to introduce computer science to third graders for Hour of Code. We collaborated with the third grade classes at Roosevelt Elementary School, and guided the students through computer science games and activities that we gathered from Hour of Code and various other organizations. I coordinated with the third grade staff, reached out to the CS Academy for additional volunteers, and organized the volunteer schedule. With the curriculum our club organized together, we were able to work with nearly 80 students. It was truly an amazing and wonderful experience to see how much fun all of the kids have, and we are making plans to do this again in the future.

--Jocelyn Gallardo