Academy Update

This is another year of growth for the CS Academy. We welcomed 141 new students and 153 returning students this year! All of our clubs and year long programs are back in action. We had our first lunch speaker this month (see below for a student’s perspective on this event) and both our SB Makers Club and Girls Who Code Club have held their first meetings with great turnouts. Our recent parent night introduced parents to the classes, pathways, certificates, and extracurricular activities we offer. If you missed it or want to learn more, you can learn about these opportunities on our website and the CS Academy NEO class, and of course you can always email me at skyadams@s bunified.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and photos.

I’d like to thank Daisy Moschitto for her years of supporting the CS Academy. Her organization and passion helped the CS Academy become what it is today. She has now moved on to working in the business office at SBHS.

Student Work

This month we are showcasing work created by students in Computational Art. When you click on the links to the projects, you’ll see the artwork. You can click on the </> button at the top to see the code.*

Max created this image of a jellyfish.

Upcoming Events

10/12 Lunch speaker: Jordan Mash, Software Engineer
10/25 SB Tech event for students in Computational Art and ECS
11/9 Lunch speaker: Ashvini Varatharaj, PhD student at UCSB

Club Meetings

Thursdays at lunch: Maker’s Club
Last Wednesday of each month at lunch: Girls Who Code
Two students worked together to create this image of a panda. One of them wrote of it, “The main thing about this project is not the colors, the animal itself, or the vastness of the code. It is the fact that this panda is near perfectly uniform, "exact" distances between other shapes and lines.”

Mat created this animation of a bat in a cave.

*The students named above have chosen how they would like their names listed here.

Recent Events

Lunch speaker

Stacey Gomes is the Director of Infrastructure Engineering at Salesforce. Salesforce is the leader in CRM (Customer Relations Management) software. My main take away from the presentation was that Salesforce will hire anyone who has
the knowledge for the job. While some companies hire people strictly from their
education, SalesForce will not let education be a deterrent for a person trying to get
a job. Ms. Gomes also stated that her colleagues don’t all have an education related
to their job, while they do have some experience related to their job. Ms. Gomes also
pointed out that lots of people around the world work at SalesForce; SalesForce
prides themselves on being inclusive of anyone who wants a job in their company.
--Jesus Reynoso

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**Student Spotlight**

On the 7th of June 2022, my brother and I began exploring the ways we could make
our summer more meaningful. We joined hands with a local non-profit organization
called the Santa Barbara Channelkeepers, who have provided us with a wonderful
volunteering experience designed towards “reducing pollution at its source.” One of
the greatest volunteer opportunities they have to offer are community cleanups — an
option that we undertook for the rest of the summer.

However, we soon realized that there was a problem with our cleanup efforts. The
Channelkeepers’ Watershed Brigade had a sizable volunteering community but no
effective way of coordinating individual cleanup efforts. Every morning, it was like
throwing a dart blind at a map to see where we would go next! So, we began to
create a web application that allows visitors to identify locations of recent cleanups,
report areas of refuse and litter, and view cleanup statistics. Here is the link to the
website if anyone is interested:  [https://watershed-cleanup-sb.herokuapp.com/](https://watershed-cleanup-sb.herokuapp.com/)

Beyond that, this experience indulged us to delve deeper into the environmental
issues of today’s world. From global warming to overfishing to mass pollution, there
seems to be an endless number of problems for our generation to solve — yet it's
not immediately clear on how to fix them. However, we recently joined a hackathon
that tackles this obstacle: Florida Hacks with IBM. It focuses on solving various
environmental problems, and provides free mentorship, access to IBM Cloud
software like machine learning and AI, and the chance to create a team with other
talented and diverse students across the country!

Throughout all of this, we would like to thank Ms. Adams, the director of the CS
Academy and our teacher, for all the support she has shown to the students of the
academy. Without her, we would not have been able to create the clean-up website
nor become involved in the hackathon we are in. We would also like to thank the
entire staff of the CS Academy for making computer science more accessible,
allowing students to develop technical skills and make a difference in their
communities. We are grateful for all of the wonderful experiences they have provided
us, and we will truly miss the academy when we graduate this coming year.
--Noah Wang

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**Extracurricular Activities**
Below are a couple of the opportunities shared with students via NEO.

**Central Coast Python**
Mr. Helvey, whom some of you may know from taking DSW last year, has started a local group to learn more about Python programming.
To learn about it and join, visit [https://www.meetup.com/central-coast-python/](https://www.meetup.com/central-coast-python/)

**Congressional App Challenge**
Each year Congress hosts the Congressional App Challenge, a competition for high school students who code or want to learn to code. Students may work alone or in small groups to create an app to enter in the challenge. Projects can be created over the summer or during the school year or can be something you have already created. A few years ago, a group of students from Computational Art entered their final project and won, earning them a trip to Washington DC to present their project to members of Congress! To learn more about the challenge, see past winning projects, and enter a project, visit [https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/](https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/) Participation in the Challenge is highly encouraged!