

## Exploring Computer Science

Digital studies is a high school graduation requirement in Utah. Exploring Computer Science is Innovations High School's typical way of fulfilling this requirement. This course is intended to serve as an introduction to computer science. No prior experience is necessary to be successful. The concepts discussed in the course are divided into three main strands:

1. Human-Computer Interaction: This strand discusses what computers are and how they function. Special emphasis is placed on learning how to use them effectively, responsibly, and safely.
2. Problem Solving: This strand introduces a basic format for solving problems and gives students a variety of opportunities to refine these skills. A few additional topics relating to computer use and function are included as well.
3. Computer Programming: This strand gives students experience with basic computer programming. We will be using a program called Scratch to learn these skills. Examples of skills and ideas practiced include inputs, iterations, variables, and varied outputs.

Many of the topics, particularly in the first two strands, require group participation. Typical activities include discussion, comparison, and collaboration. Additionally, for a student to truly learn concepts, there is a high level of trial and error involved. Because of these reasons, attendance is critical to your success in this class. To support this, you have been enrolled in the course on Powerschool, and your attendance will be tracked.

You will be successful in this course if you follow these guidelines:

- Attend each class meeting.
- Actively participate each class.
- Take risks in your learning.
  - You will be asked to do things you are unsure of. These are learning experiences for you.
- Proactively discuss with the teacher any absences.
  - Message me on Canvas if you will miss class. Talk with me to discuss how to make up any missing work.
- Ask questions.
  - Make sure you understand the assignment. If you have tried unsuccessfully to complete a task, ask for assistance.

You will be graded on each assignment. Some of these are participation-oriented, while others require you to create a project. In all cases, grades are determined based on how well you met the criteria. If a submission does not meet the expectations, you are encouraged to redo and resubmit the assignment. At the end of the term, final grades will be given based on the following scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
>93	90-93	87-90	83-87	80-83	77-80	73-77	70-73	67-70	63-67	59-63	<59

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the information above. Furthermore, I agree to attend class each day at the designated time and participate in the learning activities.

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Student signature

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Parent Signature