

2026-2027 AP Computer Science A Syllabus
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Welcome to Advanced Placement Computer Science A

Welcome to AP Computer Science at Rush-Henrietta High School! This is the second year that APCS is being offered here and I hope to share my excitement and enthusiasm for this course with you as we dive into this year long journey of computer programming.

AP Computer Science is a college level course that teaches students how to program in the Java language. Java is one of the top computer languages in the world. Typically, a person who knows how to code in Java can pick up other top-rated languages without much difficulty. Some topics that are included in this course: user defined and structured data types, algorithm development, decisions and loops, arrays, recursion, and classes. At the end of the school year, students will be encouraged to take the AP Computer Science A test. If they pass the exam, they may receive college credit for one semester of computer science.

Teaching Strategies: This course focuses on the details of writing computer software using the Java programming language. Our goal is to stress an object-oriented perspective throughout the material. The course emphasizes basic ideas of software engineering and our goal of developing high quality software. We will also look at and discuss social and ethical issues around computing in class throughout the year.

The course will consist of video lectures, in class lectures and notes, daily programming exercises, longer coding assignments, regular quizzes and exams. We will also be following the textbook stated below as well as the PLTW textbook and curriculum.

Each lesson includes practice exercises including shorter coding problems. Additional practice and projects will be assigned and graded in class. Most classes will consist of hands on coding versus lecture based.

Textbook: Building Java Programs: A Back to Basic Approach
By: Marty Stepp and Stuart Reges

Materials:

- Binder with loose leaf paper
- Flash Drive to save coding programs

Conduct: AP Computer Science is a very demanding course. Since it is to prepare you for the AP Computer Science A exam, it is imperative that you give your attention during the time we have together in class. With that being said, there will be no cell phones or music use during lecture times. Even though you are sitting in front of the computer, there will be absolutely no web browsing, checking emails, grades, or any sort of computer games allowed. If this issue persists, you will need to stay after with me in order to continue your work and hand in for a grade.

Grading:

Formative Assessment.....	20%
Quizzes/Projects.....	10%
Tests.....	70%

AP CS Exam: There is an AP CS Exam that everyone will be invited to sign up to take. If you are interested in taking the AP exam in May, you will be required to pay an \$80 fee for the exam and is intended to give you college credit at certain universities. The course material and teaching techniques are geared toward completing this exam with success. This exam is in May 2027.

Academic Honesty: Universities have established policies for dealing with academic dishonesty, and you will be held to a similar standard while in class. Under no circumstances are you permitted to present anyone else's work as your own. I understand that especially in a course like this, it is easy to help someone by showing them your code but you must stick to your own work. Just like writing a paper in English, all styles of coding are different. It is extremely easy for me as the teacher to see if two students copied each other. With that being said, it is also easy to look up someone else's code online. Using someone else's solution from the internet or another student (past or present) or any other additional source is a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy and will result in a penalty. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include, but are not limited to, grade reductions, and referrals to school administration. We will discuss ways that I will monitor and ensure that each student is doing their own work throughout class. If you need help, ask a partner a specific question on HOW to do something, not what their exact code is or you can ask me. Never should a student type code for another student. Everyone is accountable for their own work at all times.

ABSENCES: Students are expected to continue their learning and assignments even when they miss school. In the case of an absence, the student will receive 2 class days from the original assignment date to make up the work. For each additional day absent, the student will receive one more class day to make up the work.

EXTRA HELP: Continuous understanding is essential for success in this class. If you are having difficulty after class or studying for a test, seek help as soon as possible. Meet with me as soon as possible to schedule a time that fits both of our schedules.