

Middle School Technology & Computer Class Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to enhance student's knowledge of computer software, hardware, systems, and technologies that will help them become proficient users of technology in school, at home, and in life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & RATIONALE

- The student will demonstrate knowledge of commonly used software and websites.
- The student will understand the benefits and detriments of using online software.
- We will utilize online calendaring and other tools that will help the student learn organizational skills transferable to other classes, family, and life.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to collaborate with other students and teams on projects.
- The student will know the difference between reliable sources and unreliable sources.
- The student will know and be able to define various terms relating to technology.
- The student will have a better knowledge and experience with communication, collaboration, blogging, podcasting, publishing, editing audio, video, and images, programming, web design, content management, and databases.
- The students will learn best practices to keep a computer operating well. This may include virus avoidance strategies, and how to install / uninstall programs.
- The students will give multiple presentations, utilizing technology (including photos, graphics, audio/video) to enhance the presentation. This will prepare you for high school and life...where you may need to give presentations to groups.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A personal gmail account is required. We will be utilizing google drive docs, spreadsheets, presentations, and other free software individually and as a group. Free sign up at www.gmail.com. Students must be willing to share their log in information with their parents/guardians.
- Access to a laptop or tablet computer with wireless (wifi) during class.
- Reading will be assigned periodically. Students will come to class prepared to discuss the reading and share their thoughts on the material.

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COURSE POLICIES

- Weight given to course requirement for grading
10% Reading
10% Class participation
10% Preparation (bringing a working laptop)
50% Projects
20% Tests
- Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval. If you will not be present on the day an assignment is due, you may email your assignment to the instructor prior to the beginning of class (9:30am Wednesdays).
- Letter Grades follow the school's grading policy. Excellent work will be rewarded with an excellent grade. Average work will receive an average grade.

COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (warning, possibly boring but important stuff here)

- Students should not utilize any social networking websites while in class (facebook, twitter, etc.) unless approved by the instructor as part of the class. No phones/texting is permitted while in school.
- Cheating on tests is a serious issue. If any student is found to be cheating on tests inside class or outside, the student will fail the class. Do your best, don't cheat.
- Plagiarism is a serious issue. If you are copying another person's work without citing them as a source, you are plagiarising. Students plagiarising will receive a major grade reduction.
- Paper style and grammar. As a First Christian Academy student, all formal papers should be written in a professional manner, with footnotes denoting works cited, and correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Comments on news articles and other short writings do not need to contain footnotes. The instructor will clarify with assignments; feel free to ask if you're unsure.

I look forward to working with you this year! This class will be fun, challenging, and help you to use technology in school, life, and to the glory of God.

Mr. Sean Caldwell.