



# Computer Science

Mr. Michael Nichols

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Room # I-104

Welcome to the 2026-27 School Year at Kirkwood High School! My name is Michael Nichols and I am so excited to be joining you on this amazing journey. I have taught math in the Clarksville – Montgomery County School System for 16 years, and have taught Computer Science for 7 years. My goal is to empower each student to grow as a student and as a person and to make computer science relevant to everyday life.

In order for the students to be successful in this course, I believe it takes everyone (teacher, student, and parent) working together with the same purpose and goal. At any time, if there is anything that I can do to help your student be successful, please feel free to reach out and let me know.

## **Curriculum Overview:**

Academic standards, chosen by the Tennessee State Board of Education, provide a common set of expectations for what students should know and be able to do at the end of a specific grade or course. Local school districts determine the order in which these state-mandated standards are addressed in their schools. For a breakdown of standard pacing and course objectives for Computer Science students in the Clarksville Montgomery County School System, please visit the Curriculum Resources link under the Students & Parents tab on the CMCSS homepage.

It is the policy of the Clarksville Montgomery County School System to follow the dictates of state statutes in the selection and use of all instructional materials. Parents or legal guardians may request to review any instructional materials used in the classroom of the parent or legal guardian's child following the guidelines set forth in Instructional Policy INS-A073 found at: <https://employees.cmcoss.net/misc/ViewISO?filename=INS-A073.pdf>

The chart below outlines the units of study for Computer Science and possible major assignments or field trips that could be used to enhance student learning or solidify mastery of standards in each unit. This chart is not inclusive of every assignment for Computer Science, as additional or different assignments may be created based on the needs of students. Specific details for major assignments will be shared with students and parents or legal guardians as the standards related to the assignments are addressed in class.

| Unit | Topic                           |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Algorithms                      |
| 2    | Communicating with Computers    |
| 3    | Data Movement                   |
| 4    | Designing for Everyone          |
| 5    | Sharing Code                    |
| 6    | Networks                        |
|      | 1st Semester Review and Midterm |
| 7    | Conditionals                    |
| 8    | Loops and Lists                 |
| 9    | Searching and Sorting Methods   |
| 10   | Data Analysis                   |
|      | 2nd Semester Review and Final   |

**Supplies Needed:** Students need to have the following in class.

- 1) Pen and/or pencil
- 2) Three-Ring Binder or Folder with Prongs and Pockets
- 3) Loose-leaf lined paper or notebook
- 4) Highlighters
- 5) Laptop and Charger

**\*\*Other necessary items will be communicated ahead of time.**

### **Classroom Expectations:**

My classroom expectations are as follows:

- 1) Be prompt.
  - Arrive to class on time.
- 2) Be prepared.
  - Have your materials ready.
  - Complete homework when it is given.
  - Prepare for all assessments..
- 3) Be productive.
  - Make an effort to learn and master the material.
  - Ask questions and seek help if you need additional support.
- 4) Be polite.
  - Respect yourself, other students, staff, and their belongings.

**Behavior & Conduct:** Students will follow the CMCSS Code of Conduct and the rules outlined in the Kirkwood High School Student Handbook at all times. The Student Code of Conduct for the 2026-2027 school year has been revised; make sure you review it and are familiar with the revisions. Behaviors that interfere with the learning process, our academic environment, or show a lack of respect for others will not be tolerated.

**Tardies:** When the bell rings for class to start, all students are expected to be inside the classroom and getting prepared for the day's lesson. If you are outside the classroom when the bell rings, you are considered tardy to class. If a student is late, it will be documented in Powerschool. After three tardies, the student will be referred to the grade-level administrator.

### **Grading Policies and Procedures:**

- **Classes WITHOUT an End-of-Course Test:**

| <u>S1</u>                     | <u>S2</u>                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 weeks = 40% | 3 <sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks = 40% |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks = 40% | 4 <sup>th</sup> 9 weeks = 40% |
| Final Exam = 20%              | Final Exam = 20%              |

**Note:** If you earn an "A" for both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks, you will be exempt from the second semester exam, in which case each nine weeks' grades will constitute 50% of your semester average. It is important to note that both individual nine weeks have to be an "A"; for example, a grade of 87% and a grade of 95% would require the student to take the exam - even though the average is an A.

The Clarksville-Montgomery County School System uses a numerical grading system for reporting student progress to parents. A grade of 60 and above is considered passing. A grade of 59 and below is failing.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89  |
| C | 70-79  |
| D | 60-69  |
| F | 0-59   |

**Make-Up Work Policy:** All make-up work will be handled according to CMCSS board policy. The days a student has to complete missing work is equal to the number of days the student is absent. If a student is absent due to a school-based trip, he/she is still responsible for completing any missed work. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher and get the work missed. If a student misses a test, the student is responsible for making arrangements with the teacher to complete the missed assessment. The student will have up to two weeks from the date of the assessment to make up the assessment. A grade of zero will be given for any missed work due to absence and will be changed upon the assignment's completion. If work is not completed within the time allowed, a zero may remain as the grade.

**Late Work Policy:** For homework and classwork assignments, students may turn in late work up to two days late. On the first day the assignment is late, the student will receive a maximum of 80% of the points. On the second day the assignment is late, the student will receive a maximum of 60% of the points. On the third day the assignment is late, the student will receive a maximum of 40% of the points. After the third late day, the student will be unable to turn in the assignment for any credit.

**Use of AI in Class:** Although AI is quickly becoming a more common and useful tool in everyday life, the use of AI in my classroom is prohibited. One of the goals of this course is for students to develop their algorithmic thinking to solve problems, and I believe that AI use does not give the student an opportunity to develop and display their thinking skills. If a student is caught using AI on any part of an assignment, the student will receive consequences in accordance with the CMCSS Student Code of Conduct.

**Unauthorized Code Syntax:** Since this course is introductory in nature, I will be teaching students all the syntax they need to be successful in the course. Students will not need to research more advanced code syntax to be successful, and I recommend against doing this since it may not apply to the requirements of this course. Using code syntax in an assignment that we have not discussed in class will result in a zero for the assignment, with no opportunity to redo the assignment.

## Parent Acknowledgement - Digital Option

Parents/Guardians, please use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR Code and fill out my brief form to digitally sign the syllabus. This will be a small participation/completion grade for my class.



If you have trouble with the QR Code, please type this short link into a web browser to complete the signing: [bit.ly/NichSAF](https://bit.ly/NichSAF)

## Parent Acknowledgement - Paper Option

### Parent Syllabus Acknowledgement & Information

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Best Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_