

Hello Ms. Ware,

Thank you so much for your concern. Harmonie presently has an 92% with 4 missing assignments. Every assignment that a student turns in I always make a comment and explain why they did not score perfectly. I've copied and pasted some of the comments from her semester in "Fundamentals of Coding" below...I do not subtract points for late assignments only for missing assignments. So, Harmonie is able to go in and rework or turn in her work for the assignments that are missing, without being penalized in any way. The 16th of December, next Wednesday, is the final "hard" due date for assignments this semester.

There was no submission for the Pinwheel Design with Functions, so the 0 went to a 5 out of 10 possible points, per school policies of giving students a 50% grade, instead of a 0% grade. I am in the process of grading last week's work for the 8th grade classes...so, the adjustments will be made to all of the latest grades by next week. Below you will find the possible past assignments in question...as you can see I responded to Harmonie and explained to her why she got the grade she got...mostly, the work did not come to me, so I had nothing to score. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can discuss this further.

The vast majority of students had problems with the "Mindfulness App" - creating it in Scratch and trying to send the link through Canvas...the two programs did not communicate; so, we pulled that assignment and it was not one that was required. So, the handful of students who were able to submit it, received extra credit for their efforts. So, she will not be getting a grade for that assignment...the message on the assignment reads: NO LONGER AN ASSIGNMENT...THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN GRADED HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXTRA CREDIT; THOSE WHO SUBMITTED MAY SHOWCASE THEIR WORK FOR EXTRA CREDIT THROUGH GOOGLE MEET; EVERYONE ELSE...SKIP AND ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS AND YOUR PERSONAL "HAPPY PLACES"!

In other words, it is not counted towards the final grade.

To get around the submission problems for the last couple of assignments, I've been asking the students to take a screenshot of their finished coding and email it to me, so I can see their progress. An example has been provided so they can study it and figure out how to set up the coding. This directive is in the instructions for the assignment.

Hope this helps clarify many of your questions; again, thank you for your interest, Ms. Ware and please let me know if you have any further problems...

Regards, Grace Dyrek
CMS Librarian and Virtual Coding Teacher

Hello Tech Titans,

What a busy time of year!

Wednesday is our final day of accepting assignments. Please take a moment and review all of your accomplishments and feel good about learning a new language, Coding, the language of computers this semester. And then, take a breath and rest. Read a book [many new ones have been launched on OverDrive!]. Watch movies. Go hiking. Take a nap. You've poured your heart and soul into doing well with Virtual School this year, and you shouldn't feel guilty taking a break and resting. Know that we are so proud of you and all of your hard work!

REMEMBER: Deadline for Assignments, 16 December 2020, Wednesday.

For those students who are staying virtual know that next semester your teachers will likely change. You will automatically switch over to that teacher on January 5th; just so you all are prepared and won't be caught off guard when that happens. Additionally, those students who are returning to in-person school will also experience new teachers in January!

Regards, Mrs. Dyrek

CMS Librarian and Virtual Coding Teacher

Dear Tech Titans,

We have had an eventful semester together learning to speak to computers through a new "coding" language. We've also had the pleasure of playing games using familiar characters to help us learn some difficult concepts such as sequencing, looping, functions, conditionals, algorithms, A.I., and biomimicry; witnessing too, the personal life stories/testimonials of amazing computer scientists working at Google, Facebook, Instagram, and Microsoft, to name a few. We've dabbled in the arts, coding intricate sticker art and programming our own dance routines with aliens and dancing sharks! All in all, we have had an opportunity to explore the past, the present and the future of computer science, its promise [sustainable crops and climate analysis] and its potential cruelty [loss of privacy and jobs]. Your generation will likely have the impossible task of resolving the moral and ethical dilemmas surrounding the great awakening of machine "consciousness" or "singularity".

As we continue to experience such amazing innovations, we realized that we are entering a new renaissance of creativity where our reach will certainly be augmented by machine intelligence. Perhaps, the most intriguing "edutainment" happened when we focused our attention on Computer Generated Images [C.G.I.] techniques and how it is transforming the filmmaking process. All of this brought us finally to storytelling in gaming and the thrill of role playing as we solved coding puzzles to achieve a goal. Concluding this journey, we marveled at the transformative state-of-the-art effects given to our favorite stories as they are brought magically to life by a huge collaborative effort

of film artists around the world, creating immersive storylines using the Unreal Engine Platform of MPC's Film Studio.

Whew!

I would like each of you to take a formal bow and congratulate yourself for learning so much...and doing so independently! If working from your bed, couch, dinner table, and even park bench has taught you anything new, it is the value of self motivation and the power of taking initiative; then we have all been successful in this endeavor! The legendary Hercules would be so proud of all of you as I am.

I've extended the deadline FOR ALL OF THE 50 ASSIGNMENTS to next Wednesday...as you know, the more you do the higher your point count and the higher your score...so keep on, keeping on...there's still time to do your best at learning about the "Fundamentals of Coding"!

If any of you need help or have a question, do not hesitate to GOOGLE MEET or email me and I will do my best to guide you to the answers...stay curious, Tech Titans!

Regards, Mrs. Dyrek

CMS Librarian and Virtual Coding Teacher

And I will miss having you all...it has been a learning adventure for me as well, Jessy...if you enjoy learning about Computer Science you can pursue that field of study at CHS in their CTE program...find out more [HERE!](#)

Hello Tech Titans,

We are so close to finishing out our semester together...I know "Coding" has been a new experience for almost all of us and I am proud to report that I have 15 A's and 11 B's, so far! So, for those that doubt their own abilities, I want you to think of these numbers, and know that it is possible with hard work and determination to figure all of this out and to have fun doing so!

"Start strong, stay strong, and finish strong by always remembering why you are doing it in the first place." ~Ralph Marston

The end of 2020 is just around the corner, and what a year it has been! After months of long hours, new learning, and countless obstacles to overcome, we are all presented with the opportunity to choose how we will finish...**finish strong**, Tech Titans...you can do this!

Regards, Mrs. Dyrek

CMS Librarian and Virtual Coding Teacher

PLEASE READ: **HOW TO NAVIGATE CODING EXPRESS!** [In Spanish](#)

The work you did in Module One will not be wasted...your extra credit points will help to boost your overall average when we have reached the end of this semester. We are still learning coding, only in this new Module, we can experiment more with blocks that if you lift their lid will show you the code they are using to execute the function they serve. It is a different platform: Coding Express; yet, it still teaches the same principles and concepts.

- When you go into your homepage, you will see to the left, a menu...go down to where it says Modules...from there select the one saying "Coding Express: Introduction." It is very important that you do not skip around in the sections, but do work systematically...step by step so you gain the knowledge you need to do the work ahead.
- First, view the "What is a Computer" video clip; then answer the "Reflection/Discussion" Question "Computers of Tomorrow..."
- Then view the "Problem Solving Process with Zipline;" before answering the "Reflection/Discussion" Question...it is a two-part question; be sure to include both parts for your full score.
- Then watch "Push Yourself Anybody can Learn."
- Then move on to the next module: "Coding Express: Warm Up"...
- Watch the "Why I Code" video clip...be inspired!
- Then you will begin with "Lesson 1: Dance Party." All of the lessons take place in **Code Studio**...read through the overview and vocabulary for this lesson, before beginning the activity in **Code Studio**...it will explain what you need to learn; then, click on the "Start Here: View on Code Studio" link...
- It will automatically take you to the 15-part "Dance Party lesson. Each step will teach you something different, a part of the whole...practice and move through *all* of the stages. At the end you will be asked to create your own dance to share!
- It is important that you add at least two different dance steps; cool background and special effects and change the sizes of the dancers...and see if you can have the music sync with the dance moves...slow them down or speed them up...this is your own creative opportunity to see code in action!
- At the top right hand side of the screen there is a **Read Aloud speaker**. Anytime you want the directions read to you, you can tap on this speaker.

- On the other side [left hand side] there is the **Share button** beside the CODE icon. Click on the Share button; copy the link...
- Go back into Canvas, into your section that says "Code Your Own Dance Party" open this section up; and at the top right hand side you will see: **"Submit Assignment"** button. It will be a Website URL...paste it into this field and write to me any comments you want to, before you press "Submit Assignment!"
- I will be able to view your coded dance party and will score how you did following our rubric for a creative project.

Hopefully this explains the process of navigating the new Coding Express Platform...we will be using the same process for the rest of the semester. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or problems and don't forget to have fun!

PLEASE READ: BIG Announcement!

On Tuesday [8 September 2020] we went live with a new program. We closed out Module One due to multiple problems students were having in navigating, understanding and submitting their assignments! I agree, it has been frustrating for all of us and I can understand everyone's hesitancy and condemnation of coding. That is why I went ahead and set up a new platform. The work completed by students for Module One will be used as extra credit; so, none of your efforts were wasted. We are now beginning a new platform... Coding Express, as posted in the Announcements [be sure to frequently check for new announcements!]. Begin with the Coding Express Introduction and move forward from there to the Coding Express Warm up where Lesson 1 will be; here you will learn how to code your own dance! Several students have already had the pleasure and were able to submit with no problems to me their work so I can enjoy it as well and grade their progress. It is creative and hopefully more self-explanatory. Step by step in the Coding Studio [the link provided in Lesson 1] students will have more of an interactive experience and still learn the basic concepts of coding. Once they finish choreographing their own unique dance using code they can submit/share the work with me by clicking on the SHARE button at the top left hand side of the screen. There is a read aloud button on the right hand side and a language selection so you can read everything in Spanish or French, if you like, at the bottom. Hopefully, everyone will have an easier time with this new platform. Please let me know if you all have any further problems or questions. I am here to help and do want to guard against any more aggravations.

Regards, Mrs. Dyrek
 CMS Librarian and Virtual Coding Teacher

In Spanish

El trabajo que hizo en el Módulo Uno no se desperdiciará ... sus puntos de crédito adicionales ayudarán a aumentar su promedio general cuando hayamos llegado al final de este semestre. Todavía estamos aprendiendo a codificar, solo en este nuevo Módulo, podemos experimentar más con bloques que si levanta la tapa le mostrarán el código que están usando para ejecutar la función a la que sirven. Es una plataforma diferente: Coding Express; sin embargo, todavía enseña los mismos principios y conceptos.

- Cuando ingrese a su página de inicio, verá a la izquierda, un menú ... vaya a donde dice Módulos ... desde allí seleccione el que dice "Coding Express: Introducción". Es muy importante que no se salte las secciones, sino que trabaje sistemáticamente ... paso a paso para que adquiera el conocimiento que necesita para hacer el trabajo que le espera.
- Primero, vea el videoclip "¿Qué es una computadora?" luego responda la pregunta "Reflexión / Discusión" "Computadoras del mañana ..."
- Luego vea el "Proceso de resolución de problemas con Zipline"; antes de responder la pregunta "Reflexión / Discusión" ... es una pregunta de dos partes; asegúrese de incluir ambas partes para su puntuación completa.
- Luego mira "Empujate por ti mismo, cualquiera puede aprender".
- Luego pase al siguiente módulo: "Codificación rápida: calentamiento" ...
- Mire el videoclip "Por qué codifico" ... ¡inspírese!
- Luego comenzará con la "Lección 1: Fiesta de baile". Todas las lecciones tienen lugar en Code Studio ... lea la descripción general y el vocabulario de esta lección, antes de comenzar la actividad en Code Studio ... le explicará lo que necesita aprender; luego, haga clic en el enlace "Comenzar aquí: Ver en Code Studio" ...
- Automáticamente lo llevará a la lección "Dance Party" de 15 partes. Cada paso le enseñará algo diferente, una parte del todo ... practique y moverse por todos los escenarios. Al final se le pedirá que cree su propio baile para compartir!
- Es importante que agregue al menos dos pasos de baile diferentes; fondo fresco y efectos especiales y cambie el tamaño de los bailarines ... y vea si puede sincronizar la música con los movimientos de baile ... ralentizarlos o acelerarlos ... ¡esta es su propia oportunidad creativa para ver el código en acción!
- En la parte superior derecha de la pantalla hay un altavoz de lectura en voz alta. Siempre que desee que le lean las instrucciones, puede tocar este altavoz.

- En el otro lado [lado izquierdo] está el botón Compartir junto al icono de CÓDIGO. Haga clic en el botón Compartir; copie el enlace. ..
- Vuelve a Canvas, a la sección que dice "Code Your Own Dance Party" abre esta sección; y en la parte superior derecha En el lado d verá: botón "Enviar asignación". Será la URL de un sitio web ... péguela en este campo y escríbame cualquier comentario que desee, antes de presionar "Enviar tarea".
- Podré ver su fiesta de baile codificada y marcaré cómo le fue siguiendo nuestras rúbrica para un proyecto creativo.

Con suerte, esto explica el proceso de navegación de la nueva Plataforma de Codificación Express ... utilizaremos el mismo proceso durante el resto del semestre. Por favor, avíseme si tiene más preguntas o problemas y no se olvide de divertirse.

Search entries or author

Hello Tech Titans,

Hope you all are feeling more comfortable with your learning in the new Coding Express Platform. Please let me know if you are having any difficulties...each day, I am at the Google Meet, ready to answer personally any questions you may have and have been trying to keep up with all of the individual Emails. It is best to do the work assigned for each week; so, you will not fall so far behind and have an insurmountable amount of work to do at the end of this semester. Please remember to read the directions carefully...so, if it is a two part question, you are sure that you answered completely the question for full credit. Some of you are forgetting to write in complete sentences and are not checking simple grammatical and spelling errors before posting. If you want your work to be taken seriously [as a professional] on the Internet, you must present your thoughts with these considerations in mind.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all of the Dance routines so far...remember to get full credit, use multiple sprites [characters]; vary their sizes and their dance moves, and add some cool special effects to tie in with the song's lyrics. This is what a choreographer does with each routine. This Coding Assignment requires the stages we all learned in our discussion about the problem solving process: Step 1: Understand the Problem; Step 2: Devise a Plan; Step 3: Carry Out The Plan; and lastly, Step 4: Reflect, Check, Interpret, how you did.

Hope this helps! Be inspired!

Learn Like A Champion Today!



- A CHAMPION STUDENT keeps his word.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT respects others.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT gives unselfishly.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT is undeterred by others.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT considers others' needs.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT encourages others.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT has a good reputation.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT sees good in the bad.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT finds good in all things.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT puts others first.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT never gives up.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT never quits.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT finds truth.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT treats peers as equals.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT seeks wisdom.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT gives to others.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT values what is most important.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT overcomes hardship.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT stands for what is right.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT commits to helping others.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT strives for excellence.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT stays focused on the goal.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT prepares for success.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT prepares for failure.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT is a good role model.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT listens to others.
- A CHAMPION STUDENT cares for others.

Will You Learn Like A Champion Today?

Hello Tech Titans,

Today we begin a new Module and a new approach to learning to Code. Do not worry about finishing the HTML projects. The work you have completed will be graded as extra credit and applied to your total course points; which will determine your grade average.

For the rest of the semester, we will be laser-focused on learning computer science by trying lessons that will develop problem-solving skills and teach us how to work through fun challenges! These games and creative projects will help familiarize us all with concepts central to coding. Begin with the Introduction and by the end of the week, complete the Warm Up work on Lesson 1: Dance Party. To give you a sense of our trajectory, take a look at the Syllabus. We now have a new format and Ten Modules to enjoy...have fun!