**Mrs. Holmes *AP Computer Science* 2021–2022**

**Course Information and Contract**

### Course Overview

This course covers the **Advanced Placement Computer Science A** curriculum. The major focus is on learning to program in the highly sophisticated Java programming language. Additional computer science topics such as program design, algorithms, and software development standards are also covered. Students sit for the AP CS A examination in May. Registration for the AP exam is due in October.

### Course Requirements and Grades

Grades are based on a combination of test scores, computer programs, and homework. It is essential that students take complete notes in class and students will need to practice their programming skills outside of the class. Students who are absent are expected to get all notes from other students. All assignments will be posted to Office365 Teams, and students will submit their work at the same site. This course is run a college course in that students are responsible for their own learning. They are expected to read the book, complete work assignments independently, and ask for help when they are having difficulty. They will be expected manage their own time to complete assignments on time. Projects will be done independently or in small groups. There will be a midterm in addition to unit tests.

### Supplies Needed

Students will need a folder or loose-leaf binder, paper, and pens or pencils. Office365 OneDrive, a USB drive, or Google Drive may be used to transfer work between school and home. The textbook and software are available online for free and students will need access to a computer outside of class to complete projects started in class. The software is machine-independent and operates in both Apple and PC environments. If a home computer is not available, please contact me to make arrangements to access school computers outside of class hours.

### Internet and Computer Use Policies

All Commack District policies related to computer use are applicable. Students are expected to be responsible computer users. They may not access unapproved Internet sites or games on his or her computer at any time in class. Students may only access programs required for coursework. **Any student found inappropriately using their computer will be disciplined. Depending on the nature of the infraction they may be taken off the computer for a day or, in very serious cases, they may be withdrawn from the class.**

Part of becoming a computer scientist entails working with peers in some capacity. I encourage students to work together to simulate that real-world experience. The advantages of this: Preparation for college and work environments, improved learning of how to interpret the code of others, practice with good programming style, and reduced the time spent being stuck and debugging code. The main disadvantage of working with others can be the temptation to breach a code of ethics. **Under no circumstances should a student present anyone else’s work as one’s own. Penalties for academic dishonesty are documented in the Student Code of Conduct. *Please note that I take computer ethics extremely seriously.***

### Extra Help

I will be available for extra help after school Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30 in room 248.Additional times may be available on request. We both want you to be successful, so you must ask for help should you feel lost along the way

### Parent/Guardian Contact

I encourage students to advocate for themselves but I also believe that engaged parents are a critical part of a student’s success. It is difficult to reach me by phone so if you have a question or concern and would like to have a conversation, please email me with your preferred phone number so I can call you.