


AP Computer Science A “APCSA”

Course Syllabus 2023-2024

<i>Instructor Name</i> Tom Hatcher hatcher@fultonschools.org	<i>Classroom Number</i> 1271	<i>R.I.S.E. Sessions</i> Tuesday’s at 7:45 AM in Room 1271 <i>or by appointment only</i>
<i>Class Website</i> https://hatcherahs.weebly.com/		<i>Course Calendar</i> https://hatcherahs.weebly.com/apcsa-calendar.html

----- Subject Specific Information -----

Description: Welcome! AP® Computer Science A is both a college-prep course for potential computer science majors and a foundation course for students planning to study in other technical fields such as engineering, physics, chemistry, and geology. The course emphasizes programming methodology, procedural abstraction, and in-depth study of algorithms, data structures, and data abstractions, as well as a detailed examination of several labs designed by the College Board. Instruction includes preparation for the AP Computer Science A Exam. In teaching this course, my reward comes when students can apply the programming tools they have learned to real-life examples on their own. Computer science is more than just programming. Students should leave my class with a clear understanding of Java and the ability to adapt to any new programming language that they are taught in college. I want them to have the confidence to tackle any problem-solving obstacles they encounter.

Late Work: All work is due at the *beginning* of class on the due date! Assignments/Assessments will be accepted late with a 25% penalty assessment, as permitted by [FCS District Policy IHA](#).

Make-Up: It is the ***STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY*** to obtain, complete, and turn in all make-up work according to school policy. The official class calendar for this course will be placed on the instructor’s website.

- Assignments that were due on the first day of an absence period are due *immediately* upon return.
- Students will have the same number of days of the absence to turn in make-up work for each day absent.
- Students will receive full credit on work missed due to absences, provided the assignment/assessment is completed by the specified deadline. Points will be deducted for late work – *see Late Work Policy above*.
- Alternative make up assignments including, but not limited to, research papers may be assigned to replace any assignments that a student missed due to absence and is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Conferences: Conferences will be scheduled upon request. Every effort will be made to accommodate parent schedules. Please email me to arrange a conference.

Help: The instructor is available for assistance by appointment only or on designated R.I.S.E. days for CTAE. See above.

Contact: Parents and students should feel free to email me: hatcher@fultonschools.org. Students should use the school email address for all communication.

Recovery: As per [FCS District Policy IHA](#),

- Students are eligible to recover all major assessments. Only assignments in the “major” category are eligible for recovery.
- Eligibility for recovery is for students who receive a 75% or below on a specific major assessment. The recovery grade cannot exceed 75%.
- The recovery assessment must be completed by the stated deadline and must be completed before the next summative assessment is given.
- All additional criteria and requirements for recovery eligibility can be found on the “Hatcher Recovery Form” – located in the class team’s page.

Plagiarism: Dishonesty is not tolerated. This is especially true in submitted work. Any thought that is not your own used in assessments *must be cited/noted*. Assume all work assignments are to be your own work unless told otherwise. Collaborating on assignments, if not *expressly permitted by the instructor*, is considered a violation of honor code. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes will face the full penalty that the school provides through the honor code policy. NOTE: I use various plagiarism programs when evaluating student work. For purposes of writing assignments, please follow MLA guidelines.

Required Materials:	Please ensure you arrive to class each day, ready to work, with the materials you need to be successful. On a normal occasion, students will need writing utensils, their device (laptop, tablet, etc.), a notebook with notebook paper, and a positive attitude!
Expectations:	<p><u>In addition</u> to the student responsibilities outlined by AHS, the following expectations will be upheld in this class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat others with respect • Honesty is EXPECTED • Be on time • Find solutions, not excuses.
Classroom Management:	Students not complying with classroom rules will be assigned private detention. The time of a private detention is assigned by the instructor at the time of the infraction. Tardies will be monitored and excessive tardies will be reported to administration. Missed detentions will result in an administrative referral. Participation in this course is a privilege. You selected this course as an elective – you make the best of it!
Cell Phone Policy:	As per FCS Code of Student Conduct , cell phones will NOT be permitted nor tolerated in the classroom, except with approved activities. Accordingly, students will be required to turn in cell phones to the storage bin at the front of the room and monitored by the instructor. Cell phones are turned in at the beginning of each class period and will receive them at the end of each class period. Infraction of this cell phone policy will result in confiscation of the device in addition to the tiered consequences for Behavior, as listed below. The student will receive the cell phone/device at the end of the school day.
Hall Passes:	Students will be permitted to leave the classroom for restroom or water breaks on an emergency-basis only . Keep in mind, when you are not in the classroom, you are missing material that is important and will likely be covered on an assessment. The “ Orange Rule ” applies which states that you will not be permitted to leave the class during the first or last ten (10) minutes of each class period. Students will be expected to utilize the <u>Documentation of Whereabouts</u> Microsoft Form each time they leave and enter the classroom during a class period. Failure to do so will result in revocation of hall pass privileges. This form will be accessible in the classroom for each student.
Virtual Class & Social Media Expectations:	Our program uses various technologies and internet tools to facilitate learning and students are all expected to act professionally and appropriately when using these resources. Anything a student does in one of these environments that is inappropriate will be treated the same as if it happened in class and will result in school discipline. Students must be vigilant in protecting their passwords – claiming someone else did something will not be a valid excuse for reducing responsibility. The responsibility will fall on the account holder. Please refer to the county policies regarding technology use for additional regulations. Additionally, students must <u>ALWAYS</u> use their own name and ID when participating in digital classroom activities.

Evaluation & Grading Methods:

Course Components	Weights
<i>Major</i>	55%
<i>Minor</i>	35%
<i>Practice</i>	10%
TOTAL:	100%

Semester 1 (Units 1-6)		Semester 2 (Units 7-11)	
Majors	6	Majors	6
Minors	10	Minors	7
Practice	10	Practice	10
Total	26	Total	23

MAJOR:	An assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills.
MINOR:	An assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets, standards, or skills within a unit.
PRACTICE:	Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework to build pre-requisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills.

**Covered
Topics in
APCSA:**

1st Semester

Unit 1: Primitive Types & Base Conversions
Unit 2: Using Objects
Unit 3: Boolean Expressions & if Statements
Unit 4: Iterations (Loops)
Unit 5: Writing Classes
Unit 6: 1-D Arrays

2nd Semester

Unit 7: ArrayList
Unit 8: 2-D Arrays
Unit 9: Inheritance
Unit 10: Recursion
Unit 11: Exam Prep

**Consequences
for Behaviors:**

1st Infraction: *Verbal Warning and loss of PD Points*
2nd Infraction: *Take Home Detention and loss of PD Points*
3rd Infraction: *Private Detention and loss of PD Points*
4th Infraction: *Administrator Referral and loss of PD Points*

AHS Common

Syllabus: To view the AHS Common Syllabus, click [HERE](#).

FCS District

Grading Policy For more information on the district's updated grading policy and to view informational videos, click [HERE](#).

Student Organization: **The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** is the student organization associated with the Business and Computer Science Department. Our chapter is affiliated with the state and national organizations and helps students develop leadership skills.

Philosophy of the Alpharetta High School Business & Computer Science Department

We believe all students should have access to quality education that prepares them for a rewarding career. Students should be provided educational experiences to help them become effective problem-solvers with an emphasis on life-long learning in an increasingly interdependent world. We believe that students should be provided with programs of study for viable careers currently in demand using advanced technology to learn the technical expertise needed to become part of a skilled workforce. As educators, we must continue to be diligent in providing opportunities for all students to adapt to technological and social changes in order to meet the expanding needs of industry and business.

AP Computer Science A
SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*** *THIS SHEET IS TO BE TURNED IN – WRITE NEATLY!* ***

Student Information:

Student Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Home Phone #: _____ **Student Cell #:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Student Personal Email: _____

Special Information (anything about the needs or circumstances of your student I might need to know):

Student

Yes, I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements of the course. If I have any questions, I know how to contact the instructor. My signature serves as my acknowledgment.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Information: For emergencies and required notices. **PLEASE PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION!!!!**

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Relationship (father, mother, aunt, etc.): _____

Parent Email: _____

Day Phone #: _____ **Parent Cell #:** _____

Sign here: YES, my child actually got this home to me and I read it! If I have any concerns, I know to contact the instructor. This serves as acknowledgement of all information contained in the syllabus.

Parent Signature

Date

ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL

APCSA COMPUTER LAB SAFETY CONTRACT

By enrolling in this class and with your signature and that of your parent/legal guardian, you agree to be bound by the conditions of this contract.

I, _____, understand that the computer lab is a unique classroom environment, and that my actions and behavior must be different than in other areas of the school. Therefore, I agree to the following standards/terms of conduct

TERMS

1. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *cleanup will be 5 minutes before the end of the period with the possibility of a longer cleanup time on certain days. I will not start cleanup early unless specified by the instructor. When it is time to cleanup, I will begin by putting my books and papers away and cleaning my immediate work area. If I finish early, I will assist others as needed.*
2. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *I am in a computer setting and thus have the freedom to move around the lab to get materials and supplies without getting the permission of the instructor. However, with that freedom I understand that I have the following obligations:*
 - a. *I will not leave the lab without the express permission of the instructor and will sign out before leaving.*
 - b. *I will not disturb other students while they are working. This includes wandering around the lab and engaging in casual conversation with those students.*
3. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *if I am not in my seat when the bell rings, I am tardy.*
4. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *I will be using computers that have access to the internet and agree to the following:*
 - a. *Alpharetta High School and Fulton County School System rules apply.*
 - b. *Internet use is a privilege and must support academic projects (it must pertain to a class assignment).*
 - c. *Logging in as someone else and/or sharing login and password information will be grounds for a discipline referral.*
 - d. *Misuse of the server, visits to inappropriate web sites, sending personal e-mails, instant messaging, or other unauthorized use of the Internet will be grounds for a discipline referral*
5. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *equipment that is broken by my negligence will be my responsibility to replace and pay for.*
6. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *theft or vandalism on my behalf will result in immediate disciplinary action and possible suspension/expulsion.*
7. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *unsafe practices in this class will result in immediate disciplinary action and will impact my grade.*
8. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *I will not bring food, candy, drinks, shorts, NO HOODS, or music devices of any kind into the laboratory without explicit permission from the instructor.*
9. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *all work that I turn in will be my own. Cheating/plagiarism will result in the loss of points, up to and including earning a failing grade on the assignment at hand.*
10. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *I will respect the rights and property of others.*
11. **I UNDERSTAND THAT** *I will abide by the rules and regulations of Alpharetta High School.*

AGREEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms stated in the AHS APCS Safety Contract. I acknowledge that being in this class is a privilege. If I fail to adhere to the terms of this contract, I will expect that my grade will be impacted, and I may face disciplinary actions.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____