8ᵗʰ Grade Computer Science Discoveries Course Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows the ICT Curriculum, building on knowledge gained in the 7th grade. ICT Essentials encompasses a field of 10 technology areas covering the three domains of information, communications, and media technologies. These domains, while having their own importance, contain overlapping knowledge and related expertise. The curriculum's title, "Information and Communication Technology," acknowledges the uniqueness of each domain yet embodies their interdependence. Each module has a corresponding certification exam.

Students will complete and have the opportunity to earn certifications in the following FOUR areas:

1. Multimedia Essentials
2. Web Design Essentials
3. Programming & Logic Essentials
4. Database Essentials

The modules focus on key skill sets within a given area of technology and through the use of online demonstrations, digital activities, and assessments, coupled with external links to deepen knowledge, provide a complete learning environment and experience. Upon passing each exam, the student will earn a Digital Tool Certificate for the technology.

TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM

All course content will be provided through the online portal at uCertify.com. Each student will have a unique login and can log in using Google. The content and all reading and activities can be accessed from the uCertify website or Google Classroom for the course.

ASSESSMENT

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice   --   30%
  ● In Class Activities
  ● Homework
  ● Vocabulary
Performance (Mastery)   --   70%
  ● Module Quizzes
  ● Test Prep
  ● Projects
  ● Certificate Exams

***Grading Scale*:** A (90-100)   B (80-89)   C (70-79)   D (60-69)   F (0-59)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "middle school," "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":
- VCMS Student Handbook
- 23-24 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials:
- Wired headphones
- 1-inch binder
- Pens/pencils for note taking

Google Classroom:
Students will utilize Google Classroom to access and submit classwork and other projects. If students are absent or find themselves behind, they can access their work at home using this site.

ALL WORK CAN BE FOUND EITHER ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM OR UCERTIFY.COM

Bell Ringer/Dismissal:
- We will begin each class session with a bell ringer. Students are expected to be in their seats before the bell rings and to immediately log in to their computers and begin their bell ringer assignment.
- Before dismissal, students are expected to properly return their station to its original state, sign out of their computer, and exit the classroom. Students will be given a few minutes to make this happen.

Make-up Work:
To receive credit for missed work due to an absence, a student must turn in assignments upon returning to school the number of days missed plus one day. However, any assignment with a previously determined due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the assigning teacher. Any variation of this must be approved by the administration.

The only work that is acceptable for turning in is the work that was assigned. Students should expect to complete the assigned work on time. There will be no makeup or extra credit work used to increase grades in the latter part of the quarter.

Late Work:
Students are expected to turn in or complete coursework on time. Late work will be accepted at any time for a discounted grade. Students who are having trouble meeting the scheduled expectations of the course should schedule a conversation with the teacher to explore options.

Per VCMS policy, assignments turned in 1 day late will be accepted for a maximum of 60%. Assignments turned in 2 or more days late will receive a zero. If a teacher assigns homework a week in advance or larger projects with set due dates of one week or more, there will be no exceptions for late work.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please regularly check your Google Classroom/teacher connection page for up-to-date assignments, classwork, homework, tests, and quizzes. Please make sure to check the calendar for the correct class period.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE PAGE

Please view the Electronic Signature Page posted in the student's Google Classroom using the student-assigned Chromebook.

*** PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE PAGE BY FRIDAY, AUG. 18, 2023***