

September 5, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The Thoreau Middle School After-School Program is partnering with Capital One again this fall to bring an exciting enrichment opportunity to our students. The Capital One Coders Middle School Initiative is a 10-week program designed to teach middle school-aged students introductory software development skills in a fun and engaging environment. Using MIT App Inventor 2 as a learning platform, students learn how to develop apps for mobile devices while growing computational thinking skills. Using App Inventor's blocks-based programming language removes the biggest problem for new learners: Syntax. Students focus on learning algorithms, abstraction, decomposition, pattern recognition, and generalization, all without the syntax of a specific programming language getting in the way. Most excitingly, students create working mobile apps that they can share with their friends and family!

This year we are excited to offer 2 clubs - a Wednesday club and a Thursday Club. They will meet after-school starting the week of September 23rd through November 26th (the final date is still to be confirmed.) The program will run from 2:25 until 4:05 pm. Students will be able to take a late bus home. The program will conclude with a celebration event and App Challenge at the Capital One Headquarters in McLean in December. Due to the popularity of this program and limited spaces, a lottery system will be used to determine the students who will participate in the program. Applications of students who can commit to attending all 10 sessions will be given priority. Students who have previously participated in this program may be eligible to participate only if we don't have enough first-time coders. Students should complete the on-line application by the end of the school day on Friday, September 13th. Students will receive notification of acceptance the week of September 17th -20th. If you are interested in applying, but cannot attend all sessions, please see Mrs. Bolanos in Room A111.

It is extremely important that your child commits to the entire 10-week schedule. Skipping a session due to another club or after-school activity is not permitted. Applications of students who can commit to attending all 10 sessions will be given priority.

Please complete this online application form by Friday, September 13th. <https://tinyurl.com/yyk7ytvc>

If you have any questions, please contact me using the information below.

Thank you,

Holly Bolanos
Coding & STEM Teacher
hebolanos@fcps.edu