

## **Capital One Coders Spring Application**

Thoreau Middle School  
2505 Cedar Lane  
Vienna, VA 22180

January 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The Thoreau Middle School after-school program is partnering with Capital One again this spring 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! Prior coding knowledge is not required.

### **To participate in the club you must be able to fully commit to:**

- All of the 10-week after school sessions
- Attendance of the evening event at Capital One Coders on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year we are excited to offer 2 clubs. One club will meet after-school on Wednesdays, beginning Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. A second club will meet after-school on Thursdays, beginning Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The program will run from 2:25 PM 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 May. Over 100 students apply for this club, and 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 online application no later than the end of the school day on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive notification of acceptance by the following week.

Please fill in the Google Form at <https://tinyurl.com/uuj6xwp>

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

Thank you,

Holly Bolanos  
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