

#hourofcode

Computers are everywhere, changing every industry on the planet. But only 35% of all high schools teach computer science. The good news is, we're on our way to change this! If you've heard about the Hour of Code before, you might know it made history - more than 100 million students around the world have tried an Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is part of a global movement to promote computer science and programming in schools all over the world. It's a yearly event during Computer Science Education Week to celebrate the birthday of Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, an American computer scientist who served in the United States Navy. She was a pioneer in computer programming, working on the Harvard Mark I computer that was used in the last part of WWII.

George Walton Academy is participating in the Hour of Code this year with many different activities.

In Lower School, Mrs. Gudnason's technology classes are investigating how coding is used in everyday activities. Students in K4 are learning how robots read code in order to perform a task by playing a game where students lay out directional codes in order to lead their "robot classmate" to a candy treat. K5 and first-grade students are using the app Scratch Jr. to code animated stories. Students in second and third grade are learning block coding using loops, conditionals, and variables in Tynker while fourth and fifth grade students are coding animated characters to create dance moves and background techniques for videos (Here is an example: <https://bit.ly/2E0P5ln>)

In Middle School, students in Mrs. Stapp's classes have been working on coding fun, but challenging tasks, in Code.org. Some include coding Angry Birds, Minecraft, and Elsa from Frozen. They also work daily to code their new robots.

In Upper School, Mrs. Stapp's classes are learning how to program their VEX robots using RobotC software.

Students (and parents) are encouraged to participate in the Hour of Code at home. Try these online resources and apps:

Hour of Code: www.hourofcode.com

Disney: <http://partners.disney.com/hour-of-code>

Scratch Jr.: <https://www.scratchjr.org/>

Scratch: <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Code Spark: <http://codespark.org/>

Code.org: <http://code.org>