



PRESS RELEASE

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Google awards grant to Stratford High

Award will provide computer science camps for rising high school students

GOOSE CREEK, SC – Google has announced that it is awarding a one-year grant allocation in the amount of \$17,560 to Stratford High School. The funds will be used to provide after-school and summer camps for eighth grade students interested in computer science.

Stratford's computer club Cyber Knights, sponsored by teacher Michael Eason, will host two after-school camps in early February, one week for students from College Park Middle School and one week for students from Westview Middle School. During July, Eason will host two weeks of camp, with one week again dedicated to each middle school. Students will explore a variety of computer science topics including building computers, programming computers, and working with robots. The programming activities will include creating 3D, interactive, computer animations and apps for smart-phones and tablets.

At the conclusion of the camps, a detailed, camp-planning document will be compiled and shared with teachers all across the state. The document will include information regarding camp planning and promotion, equipment and software needed, hour-by-hour camp activities, essentially everything a teacher needs to know to plan and run similar camps. While the camps at Stratford will accommodate approximately 100 students in 2013, Google and Eason are hopeful the camp-planning document will help other teachers hold similar camps that will impact many more students.

"We are extremely grateful to Google," said Stratford principal Conrad Lopes, adding, "and to Michael for his efforts in obtaining the grant. He is truly passionate about computer science." The camps will kick-off a new computer science program offered by Stratford beginning in fall 2013. For the first time, Stratford will offer a four-course sequence in computer science. This sequence begins with a new course Exploring Computer Science (primarily for ninth graders) and ends with another new course Java Programming Advanced Placement (primarily for twelfth graders). In between, students can take two courses in database programming, application programming, web page programming, or computer animation. According to Eason, "Computer science is THE science of the 21st Century. Our students who complete a four-course sequence in computer science will be well prepared to participate in today's global, digital economy."

The grant is provided by the Google Data Centers Grants Fund of Tides Foundation. Eason began working on the grant application in July, submitted it on October 1, and was notified of the award this week.





For more information about this partnership or other exciting initiatives occurring at Stratford throughout the year, please contact:

Media Contacts:

Teacher Michael Eason or Principal Conrad Lopes at 843-820-4000.

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