ENERGY
S C H O O L

Syllabus for Digital Design
Mr. Whitmer Rm. 118

Contact Information:
Email: TWhitmer@HoustonISD.org
Phone: (713) 802-4620
Office Hours: Periods 4 and Lunch

Course Description:
Digital Design is based on, but not limited to, the Exploring Computer Science curriculum. The class is designed to introduce students to the field of computer science through exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Digital Design is to develop student's problem solving skills and introduce how technology can make lives easier. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers, and societal and ethical issues.

Covered Topics:
This course will adhere to the ECS Curriculum. However, detours are to be expected and other material will be covered (depending on time constraints and student interest).

- Microsoft Office
- Digital Citizenship
- Presentations Skills
- Data Analysis
- Video Editing
- Audio Editing
- Web Design
- Scratch, Project Spark
- Programing (HTML, CSS, JavaScript)
- Robotics

Required Supplies:
Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn. For Digital Design, a flash drive, their HISD computer, paper and a writing utensil should be brought every day. Specific materials may be required throughout the year, in those instances, students will be given ample warning and time to properly prepare. Remember, "Try your Best at all times!" if you attend class, you are expected to work and participate.

Attendance/Tardy Policy:
Attendance and punctuality are necessary for success in this course. If you are absent, missed assignments must be completed within three days. Please refer to the student code of conduct for a list of consequences related to unexcused absences and tardies. Please remember that the contract for Energy includes maintaining good attendance.

ID Policy:
Students are expected to **visibly wear** their ID at all times. If a student forgets his or her ID, a temporary ID must be purchased and worn.

Electronics Policy:
As part of our school culture and theme, technology will be integrated into the classroom on a regular basis. It is crucial that students show maturity and are able to handle this appropriately. Students who are unable to do so will be addressed on an individual basis. We will address the behavior, not the phone.

Grading Policy:
100-90=A
89-80=B
79-75=C
74-70=D
69-below=F

Grades will be weighted as follows:
Major Assignments (tests, projects, papers)   60%
Minor Assignments (quizzes, homework, classwork)   40%

Please remember that the contract for Energy includes maintaining good grades. Students should maintain above a 75 in all classes. Please be proactive and attend tutorials/tutoring before your grade is below 75.

Project Based Learning:

Energy is a project based learning campus. This means that students will learn by doing, investigating, and problem solving. At the beginning of a multi-week project, students will be introduced to the standard based objectives through an engaging introduction that hooks students into the learning.

Students will collaborate with their peers and will take an active role in their education during the process. Students immediately decipher what they know and what they need to know as a group and class to be successful on the project.

As the project progresses, students will request "workshops", which are mini-lessons or labs that focus on specific standards within the project. Each project culminates with a professional presentation.

This method of learning has proven successful around the nation and develops a unique type of learner. It allows students to develop 21st century skills that will set them apart from their peers and make them more marketable to colleges and corporations.

Note: please sign and return this section of the document to Mr. Whitmer.

Student's Name (Print): _____ Per. _____

By signing this document, I hereby acknowledge that I understand the rules and procedures set forth in Mr. Whitmer's Digital Design classroom. Furthermore, I have read and understand the stipulations and requirements of the grading policy. I, as the student, acknowledge that I am earning my grade, and it is not given to me by my teacher. I, as the student, am responsible for my own actions and thusly the consequences those actions bring down upon me. I, as the student and/or guardian, accept the rules and procedures set forth in Mr. Whitmer's Digital Design classroom as well as the rules set forth by the school administration, specifically in terms of the "Acceptable Use" of technology and internet.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____