SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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For Immediate Release
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Spring-Ford Joins Mission to Introduce Students to Computer Science

ROYERSFORD, PA – Computers are everywhere, but fewer schools teach computer science than 10 years ago. Spring-Ford Area School District will join in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries.

The goal of the Hour of Code is not to teach anybody to become an expert computer scientist in one hour. One hour is only enough to learn that computer science is fun and creative, that it is accessible at all ages, for all students, regardless of background. Millions of participating teachers and students have decided to go beyond one hour - to learn for a whole day or a whole week or longer, and many students have decided to enroll in a whole course - or even a college major - as a result.

Some reasons SFASD is committed to the Hour of Code:

- Forbes Magazine projected that by 2020, computer related employment will rise by 22% (Morrison, 2013)
- Computer science is a top paying college degree and computer-programming jobs are growing at two times the national average.
- Less than 2.4% of college students graduate with a degree in computer science. And the numbers have dropped since the last decade.
- Exposure to computer sciences leads to some of the best-paying jobs in the world. But 75% of our population is underrepresented.
- While women earn 57% of bachelor degrees, just 12% of computer science degrees are awarded to women.
- HOC presents opportunities for problem-based learning.
- A majority of high schools don't offer computer-programming classes – Spring-Ford Area High School offers Computer Science, an Advanced Placement (AP) course that teaches program definition, design, implementation, analysis, standard data structures and standard algorithms.

What to expect during Hour of Code week: December 7-18, 2015

- Students in grades K-8 will be engaging in Hour of Code Activities during the school day at some point between December 7th - December 18th.
- High school students will learn about coding in their homeroom on December 18, and in various classes throughout the week.

With the Hour of Code, computer science has been on homepages of Google, MSN, Yahoo! and Disney. Over 100 partners joined together to support this movement. Last year, every Apple Store in the world hosted an Hour of Code and even President Obama wrote his first line of code as part of the campaign.

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