



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

For Immediate Release

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December 9, 2015

Spring-Ford Staff, Parents and Students Deem Hour of Code a Success

ROYERSFORD, PA – Spring-Ford Area School District schools joined tens of millions of students in more than 180 countries to participate in Hour of Code from December 7-11, 2015. Students and teachers alike ...

Spring-Ford Parent: "Today my 4th grader (Limerick Elementary) asked me if he can use the computer to do Minecraft Hour of Code. I didn't bring it up, but he was already introduced to Hour of Code with Mrs. Hess in Library this week and he's really excited about it. He knew what to search for to find the site on his own too. It's fantastic to see him plan his procedure, iterate through a process, and plan his algorithm...all while he sheers sheep, builds houses, avoids creepers, and mines for coal. Here are some of the things I'm hearing right now...'This is so awesome!' and 'I get to mine now!' and 'Come see...watch this...come see...' and 'I win, yay!' Then when his older brother asked what he was doing, he responded 'I'm programming!' Great job and kudos to Spring-Ford and the Limerick Elementary team for getting this started this week and building excitement about coding in our students, and I look forward to hearing more about your activities from my son!"

Spring-Ford Teacher, Mr. John Feldmann: "On December 8th, my students participated in the Hour of Code. The students were very motivated to put their computer programmer hats on and get to work. I was pleasantly surprised by their over the top enthusiasm in attacking this challenge. Students chose different activities and the ones that excelled from the start, paired up with other students to lend helpful tips in completing the tasks. Some students took the initiative to continue working on writing code in their study support classes during down time. Writing code did an array of things for them, it honed in on the following skills: following directions, giving instructions, data entry, problem solving, basic arithmetic, and enhancing perseverance skills. The attention span of the students throughout these activities was outstanding. This activity may be incorporated into the kids' schedules during their earned free time or even as a warm up activity."

Watch as Spring-Ford students explore coding (video from Ram Country TV): <https://vimeo.com/148379581>

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.



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- 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.

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.

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