

CRLS School Council 12-15-2015

Attendees:

Greta Hardina, Family Liaison
Ross Benson, faculty
Aviva Siegel, faculty
Gail Stubbs, co-chair
Trina Abbott, parent
Teresa Walker, parent
Edwidge L. Hercule, parent
John Delancey, parent
Craig Kelley, parent
Victoria Harris, parent
Maria Figueiredo, parent
Mohammed Afsar, parent
Trudy Wilcox, parent
Zahara Mohammed, parent
Mike Frutkopf, Cambridge Youth Programs
Josh Sheldon, MIT
Elka Uchman, Workforce

IT and Computer Science at RSTA/CRLS by Liz Atwood

Cambridge resident who has worked in the software industry for 8 years
Wants to get more diversity (gender and race) into the field
Because there aren't a lot of people of color who know the tech then there aren't tools either

RSTA offers certification for a huge variety of programs
Exploratory in Freshman year, Level 1 as a sophomore, Level 2 as a Junior, Level 3 for Seniors
Teaches students career readiness in the field
Many programs provide job options immediately upon high school graduation
Many programs provide co-ops for students that pay students during high school hours
Teachers must have 7 years' experience of working in the industry to be a RSTA
Programs boost student confidence that might otherwise struggle in academic classes

IT Program

Learn how computers and the Internet works
Senior year is a co-op that pays \$15/hour during third and fourth period (10-20 hours/week)
Pay way through college by working at a help desk
Great 2- and 4-year degrees available
Credit toward school at a MA community college
Graduates are sought after and field has low unemployment
Great head start for many careers

- System Administrator (\$67,000)
- Web Administrator (\$78,000)
- Information Architect (\$102,000)

Computer Science Program

Learn to program to create websites and games

Two classes count for math credit

Senior year is a co-op that pays \$15/hour during third and fourth period (10-20 hours/week)

Great way to get ahead for a Computer Science degree

Graduates are sought after and field has low unemployment

Programming teaches important critical thinking skills

Scholarships available for students of color or women

Some colleges offer computer science courses instead of calculus

- Software Engineer (\$98,000)
- Software Engineering Manager (\$136,000)
- Agile Coach (\$151,000)
- VP of Engineering (\$174,000)

CRLS offers:

- Introduction to Computer Science (Scratch, Java, Python)
- Information Technology 1
- Web Design and Development (HTML/CSS, JavaScript)
- Game Design and Development (Python)
- AP Computer Science (Java)

What to do with your children

- Hour of Code
- Made fun for younger kids with Minecraft, Flappy Bird, Star Wars, Frozen, Angry Birds
- Coding opportunities at Upper Schools
- Try Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>)
- Learn to Code for Kids Boston for meet-ups which offer 4-hour weekend workshops

Student-generated Scratch projects

Rock, paper, scissors, lizard, Spock

Fractal builder

Bug shooting game with yellow, red, and blue bugs that move at different speeds

How do you help parents who don't get coding to encourage their kids to try coding?

- Tell them that it's an important skill to know no matter what career is chosen

Computer Science courses are available to anyone through Math Department

Next year will offer Intro and IT 1 in a semester

Find more summer offerings and post on RSTA website

City working on getting a comprehensive website for all OST activities

Mass TLC (Technology Leadership Council)

Girls Who Code

RSTA classes are capped at 15 students

CRLS classes are capped at 24 students

There was an issue of enrollment increase for one year (when current juniors were in ninth)

Councils were changed to offer resources to all CRLS families

Change focus of CRLS-based meetings to Council-related business