Sinaloa Middle School

Ronald Reagan Academy of Communication and Leadership

2026-2027

Elective: Introduction to Computer Science

Mrs. Amy Hunter-Burns
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I. Teacher Bio:

I began my college education at UCSB playing soccer and earning my BA in Communication. I always knew I wanted to work with children so every summer I packed my bags and worked as a camp counselor and eventually became a camp director in Canadensis, PA. After my first few summers, I decided to relocate back east where I attended Queens College, NY, and received my General Education teaching credential. Returning to CA, I started teaching 6th grade at Sinaloa MS in 1998 and have been part of the Simi Valley School District for 28 years. I continued my education at California Lutheran University receiving my Special Education teaching credential and Master's degree in Special Education while teaching at Sinaloa. Almost 10 years ago, I was given the opportunity to teach computer science. I have enjoyed learning and watching the students interact with each other in today's world of technology. Besides being a teacher, I am a mom to two wonderful boys, an Auntie, and part of the amazing Sinaloa family!

II. Course Standards/Objectives:

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov

This is a beginning course in computer science where the objective is to introduce students to basic programming, coding, web design as well as problem-solving strategies. During this course, students will experience coding, learn the basic concepts of HTML, and have the opportunity to create their own video-like game. Students will document vocabulary, their own progress, and team working abilities in their class assignments.

III. Classroom Management and Expectations

- This class is based HIGHLY on participation and communication with pair programmers/peers.
- Students will be expected to work on lessons during class time and may need to complete the assignments at home.
- Students are expected to only be on websites that are assigned to them by the teacher. No gaming sites or youtube, unless it is part of an assignment.
- Students are expected to use the classroom supplies with care and return them to the appropriate bins.
- Students are expected to work cooperatively with their peers and as a classroom.
- Students need to advocate for themselves when they are having trouble by staying after class to ask clarifying questions.
- Emails may be sent to **parents** providing information about upcoming events or projects.
- Food, drinks (other than water), and gum are not permitted inside the classroom, per SInaloa policy.
- Cell phones are to be turned off and NOT visible during school hours. Cell phones are NEVER to be used anywhere except at the front of the school as designated by the school signs and noted in the student handbook. If a phone goes off in class, it will be taken to the office.

V. Grades and Grading:

- Students and parents need to check **Aeries** daily as this is the most reliable source of information on completed & incomplete assignments as well as the overall grades.
- Students will be held responsible for turning in late and absent work. Late work must be turned in by the end of the unit of study for partial credit.
- The majority of work is assigned through Google Classroom and on coding sites such as Code.Org or Scratch.Mit.

- All projects are expected to be turned in by the due date or they will drop one full grade, or 10%, from the earned grade each day it is late. No projects will be accepted after five days from the due date.
- Points will be deducted for late work and is not accepted after the day of the unit study assessment or the end of a unit.
- NO work will be accepted for credit after the FINAL DUE DATES.
- **Plagiarism:** *Any attempt to cheat on assignments or exams by copying, plagiarizing, submitting work that has had a substantial amount of assistance from another person, using any type of AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology, or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" (Fail) on that assignment/exam, a lowered citizenship grade, and other school disciplinary actions as outlined in the "Academic Dishonesty" portion of the Student Handbook.*
- Students will be required to complete a Final Game Project, near the end of the semester, which is heavily weighed towards their overall grade.
- Students will present their Final Game Projects to the class and will participate in our school Game Day.
- **Student citizenship grades may be impacted if students continue to be tardy, misuse the device, or decide to access sites that are not part of the lesson or appropriate for school.**
- Scores and grades are located on Aeries. Your student will demonstrate mastery in this class by:
    - Assessments, Exit Tickets, Projects = 60%
    - Assignments, Participation = 40%

  Overall Grade: A = 100% - 90%, B = 89% - 80%, C = 79% - 70%, D = 69% - 60%, F = 59% - below
- **School Tardy Policy:** On-time arrival at every class is a component of school citizenship (see school handbook).
    - 5th tardy= N in citizenship.
    - 7th tardy= N in citizenship and parent notice
    - 10th tardy= U in citizenship and parent conference
    - Excessive tardies= possible Saturday school or administrative detentions

VI. **Communication**:

- Parents and students can reach out through email if they have questions or concerns
- Parents can call the school after 2:40 P.M. if they would like to speak in-person.
- If students need extra help, students need to advocate for themselves and seek the teacher's help during class and may even need to come after school.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Know that I am here to help your students succeed and to provide a fun-learning atmosphere while learning the basics of Computer Science.

Looking forward to a wonderful year,

Mrs. Amy HunterBurns