Governor Declares Computer Science Week December 7-11, 2015

Jordan Creek Elementary School hosted a Code Iowa Press Conference on December 7 at 9:30 a.m. The whole school attended the assembly. Back row: 6th grade teacher Aaron Witt, Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and Governor Terry Branstad pictured with the school’s technology leadership team.

Clockwise: (1) Carson Copple, pictured between the Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds, spoke at the school’s assembly. (2) This crowd shot is just a small portion of the 700 elementary students in attendance. (3) Executive Director Jeff Weld lead the school with a STEM cheer. (4) Uma Dukle spoke about the importance of coding and introduced the Governor. (5) Selfie time: Just one example of how technology has changed daily life.

Congratulations SE Polk! Google/Code Iowa Award Winner

The Iowa Governor’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Advisory Council partnered with Code.org in its third international challenge, Hour of Code, to award a combined $30,000 to six schools across the state.

Each year, Code.org awards one school in each state with a $10,000 technology award based on its proposal that outlines how the school plans to implement an hour of computer coding into its curriculum this week for every grade level. With the support of Google, the STEM Council partnered with Code.org to award $4,000 each to five more schools – one in each STEM region that did not win the Code.org award.

This year’s Code Iowa award recipient in the South Central Iowa STEM Region is Spring Creek Sixth Grade Center in Pleasant Hill. The award will be used to
purchase new instructional technology.

The school plans to have more than 460 students participate in the "Hour of Code" throughout the week and welcomes any media representatives who are interested in watching students participate in the event on Friday, December 11, from 7:40-8:40 a.m. Learn more about this school in the December newsletter.

What can you do at home?

Even if your school isn’t hosting an even, you can still participate! Grab the kids, gather the neighbors or just head to the library. First, please know that playing computer games is not the same as learning computer code. BUT, Code.org makes learning how to code more fun than playing a computer game.

As soon as kids can read, they can learn to code.
2. Sit down with your kid (it’s fun!) or turn him or her loose. Tutorials include themes like Star Wars, Minecraft and Frozen. Choose one.
3. Using video, notes and hands-on coding, kids will work through coding. The tutorials are all-inclusive!
4. It takes about an hour. At the end of an hour, you can print a certificate of accomplishment.

Why Code?

According to Code.org, there are currently 586,982 computing jobs open across the United States. Last year, only 38,175 computer science students graduated and entered the work force. Here are a few more things that might surprise you…

* Computer science is a top paying degree.
* The field is ever-growing.
* Less than 2.4% of all college students graduate with a computer science degree.
* Women earned 57% of all bachelor's degrees, but just 12% of the computer degrees awarded.
* Out of 3.6 million AP exams taken in 2012, just 3,000 African American and Hispanic students took the AP Computer Science exam.

Visit Code.org to learn more.

Around the Region:
Check Out Area Schools Participating in Hour of Code

If your school is hosting an event, let us know! Check out updates here:
If you have questions about Hour of Code or Iowa STEM in general, please email Dr. Sarah Derry at scstemhub@drake.edu.