

Dear American iGeneration,

Your generation is marked with an 'i' indicating that you have access to individualized technology devices. You are a part of a group of children and teens born in a new millennium. You use technology and media to multitask and communicate. Most of you would consider yourself savvy and comfortable with using technology. You use your device to browse, game, and text.

However, if you are tech savvy then you can use technology to create and express yourself. Your generation will need to move away from being consumers to producers. Computer Science involves using the power of computers to solve problems. Every day the world of technology is evolving and changing. Many great discoveries are being made. You're connected to the world and you have the potential to solve many problems (big and small). You have an opportunity to make a huge difference! There are many other kids in other countries who code in school every day. In America, we offer many free programs you can use to teach yourself to code. Many of you were able to experience an Hour of Code in school if your teacher participated in the event. Regardless of your opportunities- you can do it!

The first step you need to take is to recognize that you're a digital citizen. A digital citizen is someone who acts safely, responsibly, and respectfully online. You are creating a digital footprint by the leaving information about yourself on the internet. You have to be aware of what you have done and what you will do because you are making a mark. We have to be aware that how we act creates our self-image and overtime actions develop a reputation. Also, we have to think about how we treat others online. As digital citizens, we are a part of a digital community. We have to understand that not everyone conducts himself or herself respectfully on the internet. We have to make smart choices, and think before we act. Everything with the internet happens quickly. It is best to stop, and think before we post or respond to others.

You are always learning new things. As with anything, you have to start by understanding the vocabulary. You can start (whenever you want) working on becoming a coder or programmer. Programmers write code (list of instructions) to tell computers what to do. If you want to give commands to a computer then you need to follow written rules so the computer will understand. Overtime, you will become more skilled at creating algorithms (a list of steps used to finish a task). Sometimes you will have a bug; also known as, an error in your program that prevents it from running as expected. When you are dealing with a bug then you will need to start debugging (finding and fixing errors in programs).

The most important thing to remember is that learning is not always easy and it is not always instant. You have to accept that learning is a process. If something doesn't work be patient and try something else. Troubleshooting is your new motto! You need to move from one plan to the next and so on.

I see a great deal of potential in you, and I want to help you be successful not only in this class, but in every grade ... college ... and beyond. Let's go for it! Let's create something together!

Fondly,

Your Teacher



Read and Respond

Vocabulary- Write a definition for each word



iGeneration-

Computer Science-

Digital Citizen-

Digital Footprint-

Coder or Programmer-

Algorithm-

Bug-

Debugging-