

September 9th, 2009

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome to the new Garfield computer science program – the students and I have an exciting semester of Exploring Computer Science ahead of us! I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and the course and to encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

First of all, I wanted to address a point of confusion: your student should currently be signed up for BUS-PROGRAMMING 1, course code HCT4003. The Exploring Computer Science course title has not yet been approved but hopefully will be by the end of the semester.

I intend to stay well-connected with you throughout the semester by using the Source, a website and blog at <http://garfieldcs.com> and Twitter through @garfieldcs. My hope is to post assignments, handouts and lecture notes in a timely manner to provide review materials and to allow students who miss class to catch up on their own.

I have attached a copy of the syllabus for you to look over and keep for your records. Please take the time to review it with your student and encourage him or her to come to me with questions. I would also appreciate your taking the time to review Garfield school rules. Though I am myself very attached to my personal electronics, I will keep mine away during class time to avoid distractions and I expect students to do the same. Following Garfield's digital electronics policy, I will confiscate any such device I see in the classroom. Additionally, we will be using high-quality computing equipment and I expect students to always treat our learning environment with respect.

Computer science is a broad, dynamic field and I hope your students will learn to share some of my enthusiasm for it. I welcome your feedback and participation in this course and look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Hélène Martin

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