



THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier
Telephone 860-283-3036
Email kbernier@thomastonschools.org
Website www.thomastonschooldesk.org

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THOMASTON CENTER SCHOOL STUDENTS PRACTICE CODING SKILLS

Students “Drop Everything and Code” during the Hour of Code

Thomaston, CT, December 20, 2017—Thomaston Center School Principal, Kristin Bernier announced the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students of Thomaston Center School participated in the “Hour of Code” on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, from 9:30am until 10:30 am. Thomaston Center School students joined millions of students around the world in the activity.

The Hour of Code is sponsored by code.org and the purpose is to provide students an opportunity to learn and practice valuable skills that will help them navigate through future demands of the twenty-first century. Through this event, students will learn computer algorithms, application production, and internet use. Students used their Chrome Books and had a choice of themes to learn how to program and code. The Hour of Code is an extension of the work students are producing in their technology education classes at Center School. This event is facilitated by technology education teacher, Mr. Doug Craig. According to Ms. Bernier, “We are proud to be a part of this global initiative. While this project is exciting for students, it allows them the chance to hone and discover new skills. The Hour of Code may even inspire students to choose a career in technology.”

This is the third year Thomaston Center School has participated in this program.

Additional information about Code.org

Launched in 2013, Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Code.org believes every

student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science and computer science should be part of core curriculum, alongside other courses such as biology, chemistry or algebra. Code.org increases diversity in computer science by reaching students of all backgrounds where they are — at their skill-level, in their schools, and in ways that inspire them to keep learning. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts there will be over 1 million computing job openings by 2022. According to code.org – 67% of all new jobs in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) are in computing, yet only 8% of STEM graduates are in Computer Science. This year, more than 153,000 Hour of Code events have taken place in more than 180 countries. ¹

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For more information, press only:

Kristin Bernier

860-283-3036

kbernier@thomastonschools.org

Thomaston Board of Education Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to educate, challenge and inspire each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

-TBOE Policy 0100

Goals and Objectives of the Thomaston Board of Education:

The Thomaston Board of Education believes that all students have a right to an education which is based on standards of excellence, which stresses rigorous demands and which serves to expand students' personal horizons. The Board believes that the education of each student is the shared responsibility of students, parents, faculty, and administrators. The Board also recognizes that students differ in their interests and abilities and therefore the district offers a comprehensive program consisting of a variety of learning experiences. The Board believes that an important function of the school is to prepare students for participation in our American democratic society. The Board seeks to improve the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical capacities of all students. The Board encourages the development of thinking and communication skills, the tolerance of and responsibility for others, and the understanding of varied cultures and life styles. In order to implement this philosophy, recognizing that elementary, middle and high school education are important steps in a lifelong process, the Board of Education establishes the following objectives:

- A. To teach the essential skills traditionally associated with the various disciplines.
- B. To develop the four communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

¹ Adapted from www.code.org/about

- C. To extend and refine the students' ability to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate printed, visual, and aural material.
- D. To develop critical thinking.
- E. To further the students' development of self-awareness, self-discipline, and self-esteem.
- F. To promote the physical well-being of all students.
- G. To promote creativity and appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- H. To encourage students to consider both the alternatives to and the consequences of their actions in the decision making process.
- I. To present career options and to assist students in setting tentative goals.
- J. To help the student appreciate that learning is integrated and continuous.

-TBOE Policy 5010



Students participate in Thomaston Center School's Hour of Code on Wednesday, December 20, 2017.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kristin Reichelt Bernier at 860-283-3036 or email at kbernier@thomastonschools.org.