CodeHS Case Study

Embracing Computer Science Education at Mifflin County High School

Kelley Dixon, Computer Science Teacher at Mifflin County High School in Lewistown, Pennsylvania

Been there done that. From London to Italy to Florida and now Pennsylvania, Kelley Dixon is proud to celebrate her 32nd year teaching!

In 1979, Kelley took her first computer programming class and quickly realized she had a strong knack for these skills. Computer programming was a completely different experience in the early 80's with large terminals that took minutes to compute just one program. That didn't stop Kelley.

After years traveling internationally and domestically, Kelley Dixon landed in Lewistown, Pennsylvania where she is now a computer science and business education teacher at Mifflin County High School.

Prior to becoming the high school business education and computer science teacher, Kelley taught math and computer instructions at the middle school for 10 years. When she transferred to Mifflin County High School 6 years ago, she began teaching computer applications, personal finance and web page development courses. During her third year at Mifflin County High School Kelley was given the opportunity to take over the programming classes. The first year was tough--it had been years since she had coded. However, Kelley was determined to build the school's program and open it up to as many students as she could.

Kelley began teaching programming using the curriculum provided by the previous teacher, but later that year stumbled upon CodeHS during CS Ed Week and decided to try it out. Immediately, she was blown away by the platform and curriculum offerings.

> **"The CodeHS site is so easy to navigate and offers a wide variety of activities to accommodate and challenge students at every level. ... My students love CodeHS!"**

Today, Kelley will be the first to tell you that even after teaching for 30+ years, CodeHS has made teaching computer science more comfortable and is far easier to navigate than other platforms. Not only does it support Kelley's flexible teaching style and provide her extensive supplemental resources, the curriculum itself is engaging and fun for her students. One student said, "I feel like I'm playing a game. I love this!"

With more interest sparking around computer science, a few students expressed a desire for an AP course, which was not offered at Mifflin County High School. It didn't take long for Kelley to make it her mission to give students the opportunity to take AP CSP in high school. After a few conversations with school administrators, the AP CSP course was an elective for the student base at Mifflin County High School.

The first year of AP, 7 seniors--including the ones who expressed interest earlier--enrolled in the CodeHS AP CSP course. 6 out of the 7 students passed the exam and 3 of those students are now pursuing a degree in computer science!

With a strong background in education and technology, Kelley is determined to continue opening doors for students at Mifflin County High School and give everyone the opportunity to take computer science. Her love for both the subject and her students is evident.

37 STUDENTS
at Mifflin County HS are enrolled in a CodeHS courses during 2018-2019 school year

3 CODEHS COURSES
are taught at Mifflin County High School

6/7 STUDENTS
passed the AP CSP exam the first year CodeHS AP CSP was offered