

Building a Cert Culture at McDonogh

by Joe Thompson



Dreamed of This

“Beyond the AP”

Think of the AP as a
“founding cert”...but we
can do better.

The AP in CS “A” has issues

- Only offered 1 day a year
- Not recognized by colleges for placement (typically)
- Over reliance on language skills to ferret out meaning in both MCQ and FRQ (discussion)
- Can intimidate students both before exam and after.

Basic Problem

“Weed out” exam/course promotes silo and eliminates students when industry/agencies need lots of people.

They do not want us weeding students out, they want us producing people who can help their teams get things done.

What if you could....

- Take a cert when you are ready
- Not ready? Postpone!
- Acquire a credential that will qualify you for a job
- Indicate to everyone that you are a lifelong learner and a continuous improver
- Work to improve during vacations and holidays, on your schedule
- Set yourself apart in applications for college and internships

Happy news

- There is tremendous demand for our students. We need to make them aware that coding is a good path forward for them, all of them.

GM hiring 3000 engineers

GM

GM to hire 3,000 for tech jobs as part of EV push

Kalea Hall The Detroit News

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Detroit — General Motors Co. plans to hire 3,000 employees in engineering, design and IT to help push forward as a leading electric vehicle maker and to develop more in-car connected technologies, the automaker said Monday.

GM is battling its Silicon Valley competition for talent to be able to achieve its mantra of zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion, and to provide connected software that puts them ahead of the competition.



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LockheedMartin: heavy recruiting in high school

- Paid internships
- Tuition help
- Good salary \$20-25/hr.
- Job waiting the day after graduation

Java certs and the path

In order of difficulty:

CodeHS "Java 1" cert...a little easier than the AP.

The AP. Still an option!

Oracle 811 cert...a little harder than the AP imho but doable

Oracle 819 (OCA) Within reach of advanced/2nd year Java students.

2 Different Learning Paths

- Adult learners/career changers, for whom most learning paths and certs are built, learn and work differently from high school students.
- Remember this as you shape your approach to certs.
- Adult learners/career changers work in big chunks of time, high school students have small chunks and are easily pulled away. They are busy!
- The trick is to look at certs and associated material and ask whether they have utility in a high school setting.

CodeHS certs--a great way to start!

You want your students to get started with certs while they are in high school.

You want them to have success. CodeHS certs are great “starter certs”.

Certs that have been achieved by McD

Our students have earned JS, Java 1, and Cyber certs from CodeHS. They and their families are happy and proud to have them.

We have used 14 vouchers this year and plan to use 20 next year.

Other certs include Oracle 811 (4), Oracle 819 (0), Security+, and ITF+

Would like to look at more including an Android cert.