

ARCS NEWS

Advancing Rural Computer Science

Brought to you by The Center for Educational Partnerships at Old Dominion University

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Announcements



Greetings! CodeVA has opened its spring calendar! All current ARCS participants are encouraged to complete four Learning Bytes sessions. To assist you in planning your schedule, please see the table below for the dates and times of each session:

February 19 at 6PM– Cybersecurity, Ciphers, and Puzzles

February 26 at 6PM– Getting Started: Programming with Scratch

March 5 at 6PM– Getting Started: Programming with Twine

March 12 at 6PM– AI Basics

March 19 at 6PM– Getting Started: Physical Computing

March 26 at 6PM– Teaching Networks & the Internet Unplugged

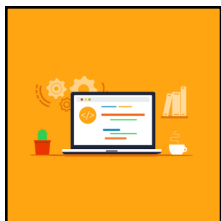
Learning Bytes Registration Link: [Learning Bytes by CodeVA | Eventbrite](#). For registration support, please email Valerie Fawley at valeriefawley@codevirginia.org

Also, if you have not already done so, please complete the ARCS midyear implementation survey!

This month's theme is Digital Citizenship. With so much of our lives online, we explore how digital spaces can spread both good and harmful information. Find resources and insights below! Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day—filled with treats and loved ones. As always, reach out with any questions!

The ARCS team

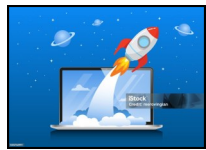
Concept Corner



Modern computers and the internet provide us with powerful tools for fast calculation and communication. These can be utilized to solve difficult and challenging problems. One such solution is the identification of the complete human genome and the development of technologies that allow us to quickly identify humans from their DNA. The latter is now routinely used in law enforcement and the justice system and has led to the exoneration of many people falsely convicted of crimes they did not commit. It has also led to techniques that can trace ancestry which has resulted in surprising discoveries and verified (or nullified) claims. Fast and secure communication through freely available platforms can also allow people to network, organize and protest for just causes.

However, the vast computing and communicating power, intentionally or intentionally, can also lead to vast negative impact on society. An example is the spread of misinformation through use of internet based social media. Misinformation can lead people to become absorbed in harmful activities or become susceptible to polarizing messages. As a society, we have also seen the rise of cyberbullying among young people which can cause them to harm themselves or others. Digital citizenship encourages us to be mindful of identifying trustworthy sources of information and avoid being susceptible to misinformation from unverified or unreliable internet sources. Responsible digital citizenry can include giving careful consideration before re-tweeting, sharing or forwarding posts and other forms of digital communication.

Pedagogy Pointers



Common Sense Education provides a [Digital Citizenship Curriculum](#) which includes a series of lessons, videos, and activities for elementary-aged students to help students work on ethical behavior while online, including the dangers of cyberbullying and sensible social media use. This collection of resources includes songs, posters, and games appropriate for all grade-levels. Aligns with CS standards **K.10, 1.12, 2.13-14, 3.14-16, 4.15-17, 5.14-16**.



This month, customize a [Valentine's Day Logo](#) with this Google activity. Students learn to create and animate their own version of the Google logo in Scratch to share with someone they care about (be it a friend, a teacher, a family member or a pet!) A child-friendly introduction video is provided. Aligns with **CS 1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5.2**.

Computer Science in the Commonwealth



This month, we wanted to feature one of our key partners in National Computer Science Education Professional Organizations, the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA). This organization is teacher-driven and designed to provide innovative practices, professional development, and connects you to a community of K-12 computer science educators both nationally and in your local area. Visit the CSTA Tidewater Virginia website to learn more:

[Home Page | Tidewater Virginia \(csteachers.org\)](#)

Also, please consider registering to receive our VDOE Computer Science Update, a newsletter from the VDOE computer science office sharing this important work across the Commonwealth:

[VDOE Computer Science Newsletter \(google.com\)](#)

Engaging All Learners



One strategy for supporting the development of digital citizenship combines technology with cultural responsiveness to involve and engage all learners. Integrative computer science activities across the curriculum that incorporate student voice and introduce new concepts using familiar vocabulary are among the techniques that can promote computer science teaching and learning. [Check out](#) this brief (4 minute) video from the 2019 International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) annual conference for ideas and examples on creating a culturally responsive learning space.

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