

12/06/21

Dear Staff and Families,

December 6 – 12th has become a very exciting week-long celebration in schools and community programs around the state. **Computer Science** is the new, fun and very necessary curricular area that all schools across Iowa are adding to their program offerings.

The emphasis on the computer science area is in direct relationship with what the **workforce** is identifying as important skills to find **good-paying jobs with demand for years to come**. Technology is replacing many of the more manual skills once performed by the workforce. Statistics show that Iowa averages 4861 open computing jobs in the state-wide workforce each month. These open positions have an average salary of \$83,000.

Currently, graduates with computer science fields **since 2018 are significantly less in number** causing a severe shortage.

Governor Kim Reynolds signed the first Iowa Computer Science Week Proclamation in her office on December 8th 2021. This brings the conversation focused on computer science education **for youth and adults**, as well as shortages in the current and future workforce in Iowa, **to the forefront**.

Computer science will be required in all Iowa school districts by 2023; most are in the planning and development stages this current school year. On Thursday, December 9th, the CCSD is sending a team of **teachers and principals to the all-day SCRIPT (Strategic Computer Science for ALL Resource & Implementation Planning)** professional learning and planning session hosted by Green Hills Area Education Agency.

Professional learning will be provided to enhance educator skills in the computer science area which is much more than just technology. Core skills identified in the computer science area includes **problem solving, creativity, spatial skills, reasoning, and proficiency** in academic areas such as reading, writing and sciences.

The Clarinda School district has been developing **computer science and technology curriculum** for implementation in response to business partner and community **conversations about what the workforce of today and tomorrow needs**. They have also designed community partnerships with regional businesses to demonstrate to students and parents how broadly these skills are incorporated into the workforce of today. **Robotics, design thinking courses, IWCC courses leading to certificates in tech fields, and a Teach Iowa post for a computer science teacher** are all steps the district has taken thus far.

Students are now able to begin a broad-based career plan **before high school graduation** which is the result of exploration and partner support. Students will engage in visits, hands-on activities, and even financial incentives to go to the next level with skill development which will **support employment** of the young person.

This information will be sent to the Clarinda Herald Journal, so you might see it again sometime soon.

Take care,

Chris