West Springfield High School 2025 - 2026

Math Department

West Springfield Department Chair is: **Jenny Walker - jlwalker1@fcps.edu**

The Curriculum (CT) Leaders are:

- **Algebra 1 - Patricia Mariscal - pmariscal@fcps.edu**
- **Geometry - Jane Lee - jlee3@fcps.edu**
- **AFDA - Julie Wagner - jmwagner@fcps.edu**
- **Algebra 2 - Shana Sommers - ssommers@fcps.edu**

- **Precalculus - Becky Barnes - rmbarnes@fcps.edu**
- **Calculus - Shannon Rapoza - serapoza@fcps.edu**
- **Computer Science - Yong Park - ypark2@fcps.edu**
- **Statistics - Jordan Moellendick - jrmoellendic@fcps.edu**

Expectations of…

CS Programming	AP CS Principles	AP Computer Science A	CS Data Structures AV:
● CS Programming is an introductory class in programming that uses Python and CMU CS Academy to teach programming concepts such as conditionals, loops, functions, methods, lists, and objects. ● This course does not require prior programming experience. Students at all levels may enroll in this class. ● The course is a great choice for students: ○ who are curious about computer programming but are not yet ready to take a rigorous CS class	● AP Computer Science Principles provides a comprehensive introduction to the foundational principles of computer science. The course teaches algorithms, data analysis, the social impacts of technology, and foundational programming with Python. ● This course does not require prior programming experience. Students at all levels may enroll in this class. ● This course will be most beneficial to students who intend to take AP CS A in a subsequent year. ● This is a great choice for	● Because AP CS A is a **rigorous course** in Java programming that includes a significant programming component, **prior experience writing code is encouraged**. ● Students with no prior programming experience should consider taking CS Programming or its equivalent prior to taking AP CS A to cultivate programming skills prior to taking AP CS A. ● The AP CS A course involves introductory concepts such as loops, conditionals, and arrays as well as advanced concepts such as inheritance, polymorphism, and	● CS Data Structures AV is a rigorous course in algorithms and data structures using the Java programming language. ● The course is comparable to a computer science course taught in a college Computer Science undergraduate curriculum. ● Students should have a **B+ or better in AP Computer Science A** prior to taking CS Data Structures AV. ● This course will be of greatest benefit to students who intend to major in Computer Science or Computer Engineering in college. ● CS Data Structures AV course involves challenging

○ Freshmen, Sophomores, or Juniors who are interested in taking additional CS coursework at WSHS such as AP CS A or Advanced CS AB and would like to have a friendly introduction to programming first.
 	
● Some prior algebra experience, such as successful completion of Algebra 1, is encouraged but not required.
● The course allows students to explore programming and develop programming skills through artistic and interactive graphics. Students have a chance to develop their own basic video games toward the second half of the school year.
● Students with prior programming experience who are looking for rigorous CS coursework are encouraged to consider taking AP Computer Science A instead of CS Programming.
	students:
	    ○ who are ready to learn how the technology they use every day works or who want to start developing their programming skills.
	    ○ Those interested in computer science may not know where to start. However, students do not need any previous knowledge of computer science to be successful in AP CSP.
	● While there are no required computer science prerequisites for AP CS Principles, it is recommended that students have taken Algebra 1.
		recursive algorithms.
		● Because the course requires significant analytical and problem-solving skills, students should expect to take ownership of their learning in the course as if this were a college class taught in a university setting.
		● The course does not require prior mathematical knowledge beyond Algebra 1 and Geometry. However, it is recommended that students who enroll in AP Computer Science A have a track record of high academic achievement (B+ or better) in prior math courses due to the challenging nature of this course.
			programming laboratories beyond the difficulty level of programming assignments in AP CS A.

Questions regarding AP CS A can be directed to Yong Park (ypark2@fcps.edu)