

HACKS

A Team, Not Just a Club

By Stephen

Computers, whether you love them or hate them, have become an everyday part of our lives. Even though we use them every day, learning how they work and getting into the roots of computer systems seems really big and scary. To help students understand these systems better, a club was started at Hurricane High at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year called HACKS.

This club is a group of people all pursuing knowledge in computer programming, so there is not a better place to start than here.

Jacob Scott, an HHS junior, started the club along with advisor Anthony Vick.

Scott stated, “You don’t need any experience at all to join; you should just enjoy coding.” So whether

you're a complete beginner or already experienced, there is a place for you on the HACKS club. He talked about one of his member’s journey before joining to now. This member went from never making a computer game before to doing

individual projects completely on their own.

It doesn’t matter how much experience you start with in HACKS, you only have more to gain. Even the founder of HACKS, arguably one of the most experienced people there, said that he has learned more about coding in more languages than what he knew before founding the club.



The mixed bag of knowledge among all the members means that they share everything they know with each other to become even more well-versed in programming.

HACKS goes on many tours, gaining experience and options for the future. The biggest place they have toured is Pluralsight worldwide headquarters located in Draper,

Utah; it is a massive tech workforce development company worth well over a billion dollars. They talked to many professionals,



including a head software engineer of the entire company. Other tours have included other buildings as well as universities and colleges.

HACK's current practice schedule is every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:00-5:00 pm. With everything HACKS has to offer, it does not have a very overwhelming schedule. Students will still be able to go to other after-school activities as well as learn a lot in the time spent with the club.

More members are always welcome. When Scott was asked about more people joining, he made it very clear that he wants more members to join and that there is plenty of room. To join, any student can talk to Jacob Scott, Mr. Vick, or scan the QR code on the classroom door (208).

In February of 2024, HACKS went to Salt Lake to compete in the Ken Garff regional competition against other coding teams. They were tasked with solving complex problems within a time limit using their knowledge on coding.

Our Hurricane High team won first place, with an entire 20 minute gap between them and the 2nd place team! Each member earned a \$500 scholarship. With more competitiveness in the mix, HACKS has turned more into a team than just a club, so more members are always appreciated.

Aside from competitions, HACKS is already seeing professional employment. A

chiropractor in the region hired our very own HHS HACKS team to create an official website to market his medical practices. This is not the first website they have created, but it is the first time they have been employed to make one.

HACKS has also helped multiple community members with technological problems or other issues they could not fix on their own--problems they wouldn't be having if they joined a programming team.

HACKS offers scholarships, industry experience, and the opportunity to be mentored by teammates. Each member has skills to offer and can teach others.

Your seat is still available. It would be rude to leave it empty!

```
01001001 01100110 00100000 01111001 01101111
01110101 00100111 01110010 01100101 00100000
01101001 01101110 01110100 01100101 01110010
01100101 01110011 01110100 01100101 01100100
00100000 01100101 01101110 01101111 01110101
01100111 01101000 00100000 01110100 01101111
00100000 01100100 01100101 01100011 01101111
01100100 01100101 00100000 01100001 01101100
01101100 00100000 01101111 01100110 00100000
01110100 01101000 01101001 01110011 00101100
00100000 01111001 01101111 01110101 00100000
01110011 01101000 01101111 01110101 01101100
01100100 00100000 01101010 01110101 01110011
01110100 00100000 01101010 01101111 01101001
01101110. Don't you agree? 😊
```

For readers who aren't online, this code translates to: *If you're interested enough to decode all this, you should just join!*