HURRICANE HACKS TEAM
LEARN TO CRACK UP THE CODE

Computer programming in many people's eyes is boring (especially for teens), unpopular, and not useful in the outside world. Yet high school students spend some of their afternoons editing and coding.

What people don't know is that there are 1,365,500 jobs available in the United States related to programming. When compared with other jobs, this is a small number, yet these jobs are still a great opportunity for those few people who participate in programming.[1]

Think about it! Without programming teenagers and adults wouldn't have their Fortnite, video games, websites, phones, and much more. We need more programmers in this world!

When interviewing Parker Davidson, a junior at Hurricane High School about his experience in his programming club, HACKS, he expressed that he wishes there were more people participating in the club. The six original team members have a great relationship; they have competed and won many of their competitions, though small in numbers.

"The classes," Parker expressed, "that HACKS helped with the most are math and an actual computer class."

> "Technology is best when it brings people together."

The team programmed a tool to do their homework for them!

Some other projects that they've been working on are creating a website, building a game, and fixing a computer. Davidson's favorite activity is game creation. It is an early development, but the basic rule is parkour. In order to move onto the next level, you have to follow a certain order of steps and skills.

A future project that Parker hopes to start is an AI project because he "believes that AI is the future."

The HACKS club doesn't only do projects. During this school year, the team took part in a coding competition at Utah Tech University. The team took first place beating the other competitors by at most five minutes. This was accomplished after only three months of the club starting!

As of March 2024, the team went all the way to Salt Lake City for a competition at the University of Utah. Davidson said he doesn't know the team's ranking, but the judges did say their team had "the best code, teamwork, and presentation." They stood out as the best! They were also able to meet people from different schools around Utah and explore the university.
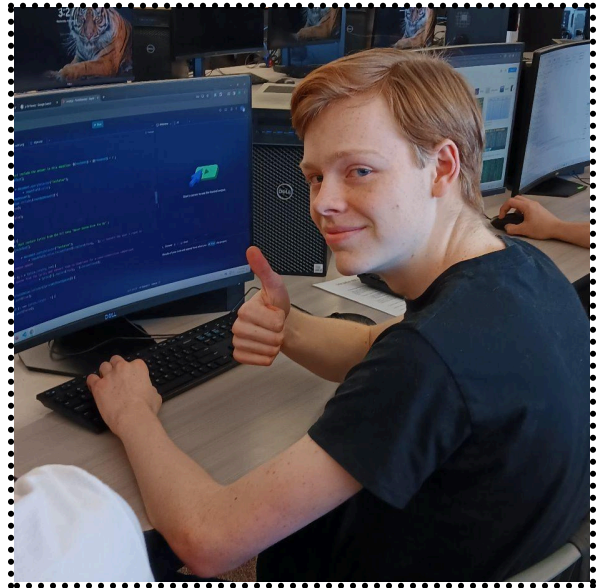
Mr. Vick, the team's coach, said the kids are fantastic. Their practices are "free flowing" as the students practice games, help each other with homework, and support each other in general. The kids run the team with his support. It's a great opportunity for students to grow a variety of skills.

HACKS is pretty laid back, but when they're in competitions, they're ready to destroy the other teams. If you're interested in joining the team but afraid about experience or working alone, don't be! Parker expressed that it is very rare that everyone works individually. You can join the club without any knowledge of programming and coding prior and still be successful with the team.

When asked to share a quote that has stood out to him during his time in HACKS, Parker said, "Technology is best when it brings people together."

The HACKS team is still a new club, but it has already proven to be a great success. Don't be afraid to join! Anyone is welcome to the team, and they encourage new faces and new brains.

[1] Djurovic, Ana. "New Intel - How Many Software Engineers Are There in 2023?" *GoRemotely*, Goremotely, 7 Mar. 2023, goremotely.net/blog/how-many-software-engineers-are-there.

About the Author

Lincoln Oringdulph is a Sophomore at Hurricane High school in Hurricane Utah. She is an avid member of the Hurricane debate team, and enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and singing at the top of her lungs when she isn't sick.