

MONTH HOUR OF CODE

Brought to you by:



Parent Toolkit

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ABOUT MONTH OF CODE

Dear Parents,

Along with the Holidays, across the country the 1st week in December is known for the global [‘Hour of Code’](#) campaign, during which both children and adults are encouraged to try their hand at coding.

In Chicago, we are encouraging every child (and their family) not only to consume, but to create the apps, games and communications of tomorrow – and we are thrilled that CPS is a part of our initiative.

On December 4th, in partnership with CPS, [Chicago City of Learning](#) is launching Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s Month of Code, a month in which we’re making it easy and fun for children (and adults) to try their hand at coding - the necessary language of today and tomorrow.

Running from December 4th – and continuing through the winter break until January 8th, we’re encouraging students to get started with coding through a series of on-line coding activities provided by Chicago City of Learning that can be completed by kids and families at home, in the community, and at schools like yours.

CPS’ Computer Science for All and Family and Community Engagement 2 teams, for example, are organizing a school-based challenge and Winter Break events at Parent University sites, with Code 60+ digital badges awarded to all who complete the projects and with prizes for the students and schools with the most participation.

We can’t wait to see how many hours this year’s students will spend coding, and we hope that this packet will provide you with the tools your classroom needs in order to participate in Month of Code!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Month of Code?

In partnership with CPS, Chicago City of Learning (CCOL) is launching Month of Code, a month in which we're encouraging youth (and their families) to engage in computer science and coding activities – the necessary language of today and tomorrow.

What is coding? And why will youth like it?

Everything digital is powered by coding, so when young people start coding, they become empowered to program their own digital experiences.

Coding is the language of the future – and it's fun! Whether your child wants to learn how to *program a robot, create an animation, design an emoji, construct a digital newspaper, or come up with their unique projects*, we have exciting coding activities for everyone!

How does this benefit my child?

Learning and practicing computer science comes with many advantages:

- Youth develop sophisticated life skills, as coding activities encourage *critical thinking, problem solving* and *creativity*.
- Learning coding helps youth better prepare for *technological internship and job opportunities* in the future.
- Young people can *follow their curiosity* and *explore* new possibilities that coding provides.
- Coding *empowers* children to not just be 'users' of technology, but *become creators*.
- Not only is coding fun and educational, but we're also offering students **prizes!** For every hour spent coding, students will earn a **Code 60+ digital badge**, and youth with the highest participation will **win iPads!**

Does this challenge work on different devices?

Yes, you and your child can access Chicago City of Learning and the Month of Code challenges from any device, but you will need to know how to take a screenshot on the device you are using. In the "Resources" section of the Month of Code activities that require screenshots, there are links to instructions for how to take them on different devices. *You might have to help your child with this important step.*

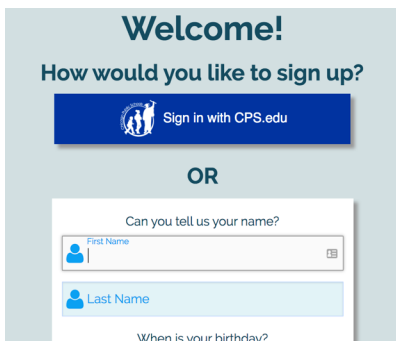
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1.

Chicago City of Learning makes it easy for your child (and you) to get started with coding. All you have to do is log into or create your Chicago City of Learning portfolio and coding activities will be at your fingertips!

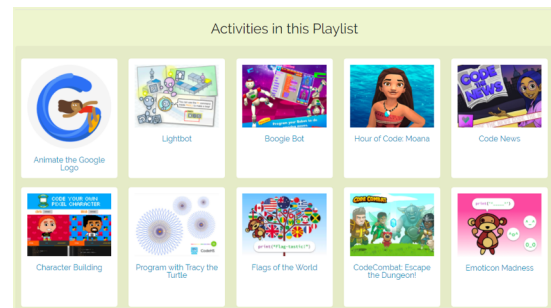
Have your child LOG INTO Chicago City of Learning (CCOL) using their **cps.edu** email at chicagocityoflearning.org/signup

Note: if students do not have a cps.edu email, they can add their cps student ID to their account.



2.

Several coding activities will be waiting for your child when they visit or complete their CCOL portfolio.



3.

As youth complete coding activities on CCOL, they earn the Code60+ digital badge. Each badge counts as an hour of code for your school.



*See how your school is doing by looking at the map at chicagocodes.org.

4.

The challenge continues through Winter Break, and we will let you know how students can continue coding through the holidays. On January 8th, we will announce the school and individual winners!



EXPLORE MORE CODING ACTIVITIES

Code without computers:

Yes, it's possible to explore coding concepts without technology. Kids can practice algorithms, error detection, geometry programming and other skills with specific coloring projects, writing assignments, acting prompts and more!

Visit Computer Science Unplugged to explore non-digital activities here:

<http://csunplugged.org/activities/>. Three of the CS Unplugged activities are on our Month of Code playlist, and you can check them out [here](#).



If you and your child complete any of these activities, please submit your work to CCOL (Chicago@CityofLearning.zendesk.com) so that you can earn the Code 60+ digital badge.

Code at Chicago Public Schools Parent University sites:

Chicago Public Schools will have family coding events during Winter Break, so that you and your child can continue coding during the holidays.

All events will be posted on Chicago City of Learning. [Click here](#) to find out the events nearest you.

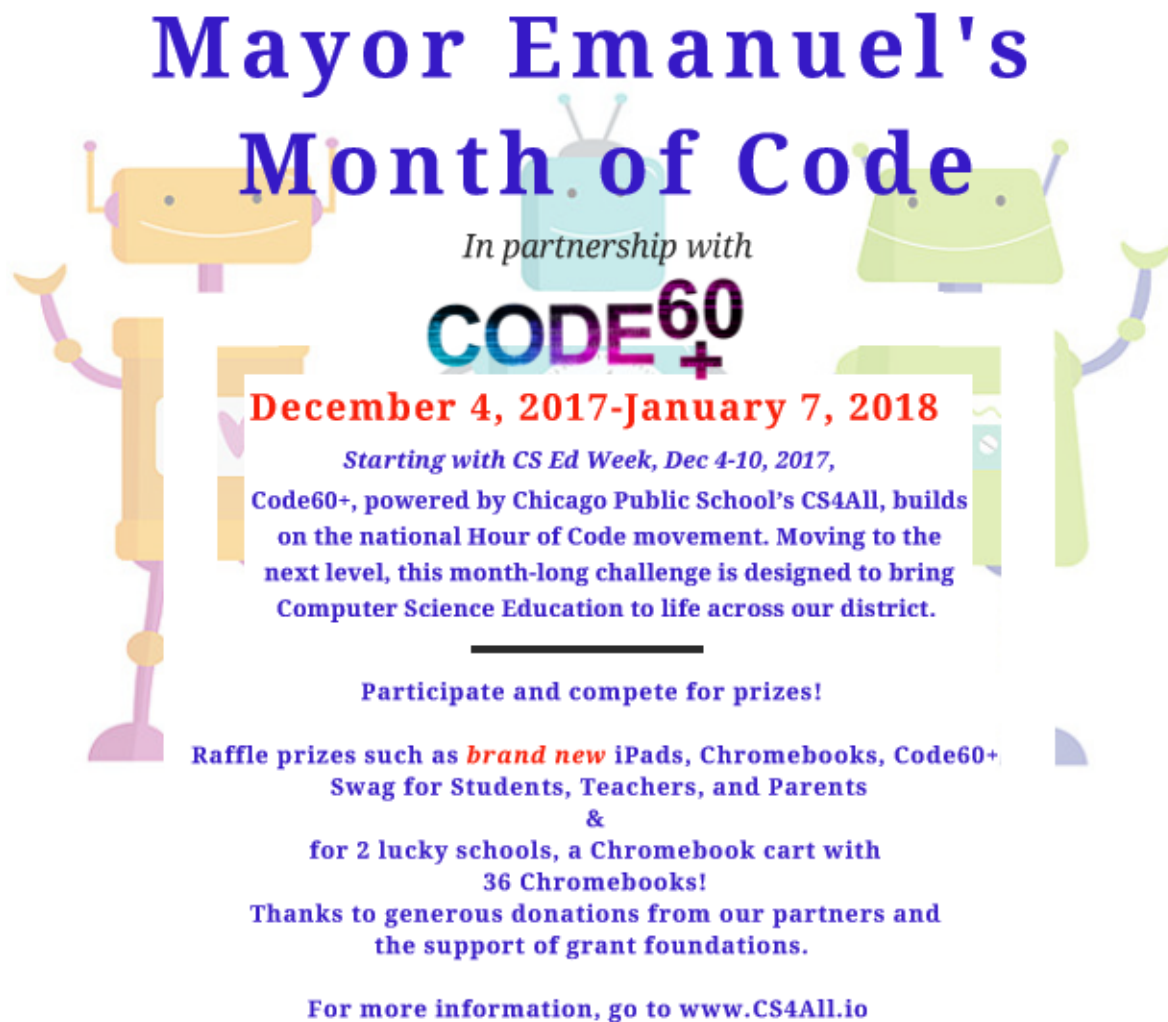
Code at Chicago Public Libraries:

Chicago Public Library branches will also host fun events for kids to work together and practice coding. [Click here](#) to learn more about the library events.



SHARE OUR FLYER

Please help us **spread the word** about Month of Code by sharing our flyer online and around your community. Click here to [download PDF version](#) of flyer.



The flyer features a central white box with text, flanked by two stylized robot characters. The robot on the left is orange and purple, and the one on the right is green and purple. The text in the box is as follows:

Mayor Emanuel's Month of Code

In partnership with
CODE60+

December 4, 2017-January 7, 2018

Starting with CS Ed Week, Dec 4-10, 2017,
Code60+, powered by Chicago Public School's CS4All, builds on the national Hour of Code movement. Moving to the next level, this month-long challenge is designed to bring Computer Science Education to life across our district.

Participate and compete for prizes!

Raffle prizes such as **brand new** iPads, Chromebooks, Code60+ Swag for Students, Teachers, and Parents
&
for 2 lucky schools, a Chromebook cart with 36 Chromebooks!

Thanks to generous donations from our partners and the support of grant foundations.

For more information, go to www.CS4All.io



SPREAD THE WORD!

FOLLOW US on social media:

Chicago City of Learning

Facebook: @[ChicagoCityOfLearning](#)

Twitter: @[ExploreChi](#)

Instagram: @[chicagocityoflearning](#)

Chicago Public Schools

Facebook: @[ChicagoPublicSchools](#)

Twitter: @[ChiPubSchools](#)

Instagram: @[ChiPubSchools](#)

SHARE with hashtags: #MonthofCode #ChicagoCodes

IDEAS TO SHARE:

FACEBOOK:

- *Interested in programming a robot, creating an animation, or designing your own computer program? Visit @ChicagoCityOfLearning and register for #MonthofCode to learn how to code, earn digital badges and win prizes!*
- *Want to learn the language of the future? Register for #MonthofCode at @ChicagoCityOfLearning to try your hand at coding and win high-tech prizes!*

TWITTER:

- *@ExploreChi offers over 80 online coding activities for FREE! The more you code, the more badges you earn – and you can win prizes! #ChicagoCodes #MonthofCode*
- *@ChiPubSchools start coding with #MonthofCode and get your school on the grid! Learn how to code, earn badges, and win prizes! #ChicagoCodes*



ABOUT CHICAGO CITY OF LEARNING

The first of its kind in a major U.S. city, Chicago City of Learning (CCOL) is a groundbreaking initiative that joins together learning opportunities for young people in a way that allows them to think about, pursue and develop their interests.

Launched in the summer of 2013 by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, CCOL has grown into a year-round initiative that allows young people to discover, engage in and have evidence for out-of-school learning opportunities they pursue beyond the classroom.

CCOL connects students to a network of over 100 citywide youth serving organizations and is supported by a digital infrastructure that customizes the experience. The CCOL platform provides thousands of searchable in-person opportunities, online activities and individual portfolios that document and track student accomplishments.

Every Chicago Public School student has a CCOL portfolio – they just need to activate it and start exploring! Find things to do by going to “Explore Activities”.

The platform provides customized recommendations to students based on age, location and interest. This informal learning is then captured and students can use their online portfolio to help them as they transition into academic and professional life.

We know there are opportunity gaps that exist in Chicago, and our goal is to narrow those gaps so youth can pursue their true passions.

We also aim to create a smarter city that will learn from the gaps we identify and work to more intelligently and collaboratively resource our neighborhoods



CONTACT INFORMATION

As you help your students get started with Month of Code, the Chicago City of Learning and [Computer Science For All](#) teams are here to support you.

We want to hear about your experience in the classroom and how we can make it even easier for your students to start coding!

Please reach out with questions at:

- Chicago@CityofLearning.zendesk.com
- CS4all@cps.edu

Happy Coding!

Chicago City of Learning