



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487



Computer Science Education Week & Hour of Code

Orange, CA – December 5, 2014 - Orange Unified schools will celebrate Computer Science Education Week by participating in **Hour of Code** from December 8-12. Organized by the non-profit group Code.org, **Hour of Code** is a one-hour introduction to computer science designed to show that students of all ages and experience-levels can learn basic coding. The self-paced, web-based **Hour of Code** tutorials can be accessed using a computer, laptop, tablet, or Smart phone and use video game play to teach basic programming commands.

Anaheim Hills, California, Cambridge, Canyon, Canyon Rim, Cerro Villa, Chapman Hills, Crescent, El Modena, El Rancho Charter, Esplanade, Fairhaven, Handy, Imperial, La Veta, Lampson, Linda Vista, McPherson, Nohl Canyon, Olive, Palmyra, Panorama, Prospect, Running Springs, Santiago Charter, Serrano, Sycamore, West Orange, and Yorba will each host an **Hour of Code** event on-campus.

“The ongoing partnership between Orange Unified School District and Code.org aligns with the District’s ongoing efforts to provide students with increased access to instructional resources and innovative 21st century technologies that enhance learning,” stated Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen, Deputy Superintendent.

Several teachers are inviting special guests to join in and participate with their classrooms. Linda Dewberry of Canyon High School will be holding the **Hour of Code** in the library and has invited Superintendent Christensen and the Mayor of Anaheim to attend. McPherson teacher Glen Warren has preregistered his classes to participate. In addition, Sycamore Elementary is partnering with Portola Middle School to have students enrolled in the “Mouse Squad” come to Sycamore to engage in coding activities with the elementary school students.

Computer science is a foundational field for every 21st century career or field of study. Learning the basics of computer science prepares students for a world that is increasingly dominated by technology. Research shows that if students study computer science, they will also perform better at math, science, and English. Exposure to computer science leads to some of the highest paying jobs in the world, however, female and minority students account for only 15% of college graduates in this field. Events like **Hour of Code** make computer science accessible to a diverse array of student. Last year almost half of all **Hour of Code** participants were female, 8% were black and 14% Hispanic. Computer science students on average are only 18% female, 3% black, and 8% Hispanic.

For more information, please visit <http://hourofcode.com/us>

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The Orange Unified School District educates approximately 30,000 students in the Cities of Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and county areas. The school district, founded in 1953, encompasses 108 square miles. The District office is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California.