



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

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



Students Learned Programming Basics during Computer Science Week

Orange, CA – December 18, 2014 – Orange Unified schools participated in Hour of Code December 8-12 in celebration of Computer Science Week. The event involved learning basic programming through interactive, self-paced tutorials on the Hour of Code website.

One of the largest events was held at Sycamore Elementary. Partnered with adjacent Portola Middle School, Sycamore Elementary students had the opportunity to engage in coding activities with members of Portola's "Mouse Squad."

"I really like how the students were enjoying the experience that they had, the opportunity to code. I think they did very well and I hope to do it again," said Portola student, Chris N.

Sycamore students also rotated through a Chromebook lab for one hour during the week, engaging in three forms of code: online programming, hands-on robot programming, and non-digital programming.

Online programming was practiced using online puzzle games, such as Lightbot, requiring basic drag-and-drop programming to solve. This simple method of applying code presented students at all grade levels with a practical demonstration of basic coding, including the importance of sequencing and loops.

Hands-on robot programming was made possible at Sycamore using small robots that could be programmed to do forty complex command sequences. These "BeeBots," acquired through a Rotary grant, allowed student to learn sequencing, estimation and problem-solving in a fun, hands-on way.

Students experienced non-digital programming by using basic coding concepts to pass oranges and other types of fruit to each other- no electronics involved.

"It was awesome because it was new, both challenging and easy at the same time!" exclaimed Sandra, a student at Sycamore.

Altogether, 30 OUSD sites participated in 2014's Hour of Code: Alternative Education, 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.

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.