

ITEST NEWS

Friday, July 13, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

Computer Gaming for Math Success



Class Group Photo

middle school students from Norwood and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Twin Rivers Unified School District . These students will be on campus for two days to field test the games developed by the Grant ITEST students and provide the “seal of approval” as to if the games are both exciting and educational, especially for elementary level students.

Both the Grant and McClatchy High School students will receive \$500.00 and other incentives for their participation in the summer program. The incentives include ACT and SAT college entrance exams preparation, field trips, mentoring with college engineering students and participating in a computer science professional industry seminar where the students will meet and talk with computer scientists currently in the real world of work.

Parents are also involved in the project and an opportunity to view the student’s “demo” games, as well as participate in workshops on college and financial aide and engineering career fields and college majors. Parents that attend the ITEST Parent Workshop on Friday, July 6, 2012 will also receive incentive gifts for their participation.

The ITEST program also provides a unique mentoring program that connects the high school students with college engineering students throughout both the summer and school year. This program provides the high school students with a realistic perspective of what college life is really like as well as information on completing a STEM degree.

Two Co-Horts = Two Cool Games!

Students from Grant Union and McClatchy High Schools are at Sac State this summer learning computer science and designing math based computer games for elementary students at Fairbanks and Jed Smith Elementary Schools.

Grant High School is completing the 2nd year of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Program and McClatchy students are in the first year program.

Joining the Grant High school students this summer will be



Classroom work

ITEST Staff:

Professor Scott Gordon

Principal Investigator

Professor Kimberly Gordon Biddle

Principal Investigator

Jean Crowder, MA

Principal Investigator

Devin Cook

Instructor, McClatchy Co-Hort

Edison Chang

HS instructor, McClatchy Co-Hort

Peter Lambert

McClatchy HS Principal

Jonathon Yu

Teaching Assistant

Phillip Booker

Lead Student Assistant

Susan Pinal

Ramon Ramos

Jazz Burney

Nhi Le

ITEST Student Assistants

Contact ITEST At:

(916) 278-4575

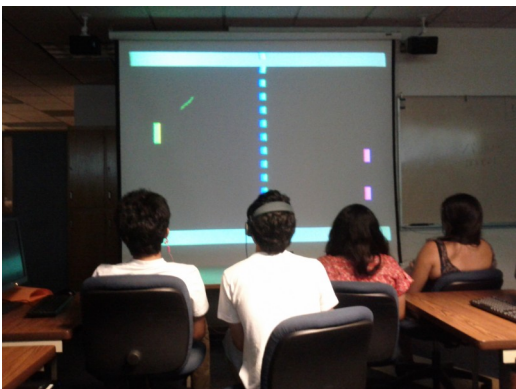
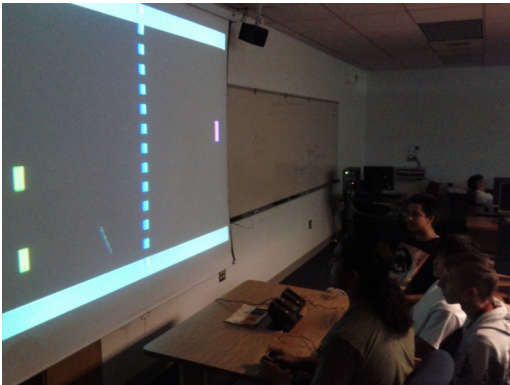
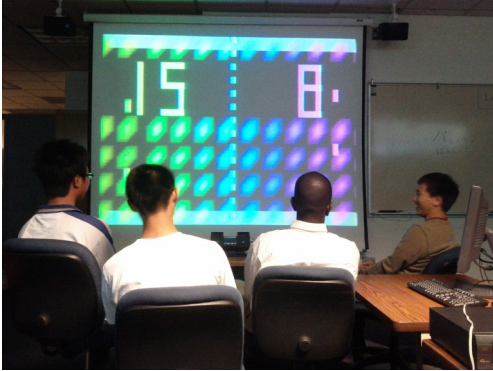
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Instructor's Corner

Photos from Pong Tournament



Dear C. K. McClatchy ITEST Parents,

Hopefully your students have told you about the incredible work they are doing here at Sacramento State University in the 2012 ITEST Summer Math based Computer Gaming Program.

I was amazed how quickly the students took to programming and how much exploration and intellectual curiosity they have shown. Programming is not an easy job. It takes time and effort - not only to master the essentials of a programming language, but to also master the mental process of breaking down a problem into solvable pieces. In my experience as a college professor in computer science, I have found that often even college level computer science students find learning computer programming a difficult achievement. Your students are to be commended for their efforts.

The skills that they learn in this ITEST computer science class will help them in college and with the rest of their lives. These include the importance of working in a group in a collaborative effort, carrying their own weight on a project based assignment, thinking logically, and solving complex problems. This component of the ITEST program will also prepare your students for the continued work on the gaming projects throughout the academic year in their ITEST class at McClatchy High School.

By the end of this summer program, your sons and daughters will have written and developed their own computer game and started down the path of mastering Java - a professional programming language used in both college and industry. Again, congratulations on your student's success and achievement in the ITEST summer program.

Devin Cook
Instructor
McClatchy High School Cohort

Dear McClatchy High School ITEST Parent/Guardian:

We have a great group of students from McClatchy High School. The students are working hard and mastering Scratch, a computer language used to design computer gaming processes, at an incredible pace.

Upon completing the six weeks summer session, the students will be able to master the computer science language of Scratch and be ready to return to the McClatchy school site during the school year and produce a sophisticated math base game for first and second graders at Jedediah Smith Elementary School. Next summer, when the students return to Sac State University to complete the games, the students will also be working with middle school students from Cal Middle and Sutter Middle School in game testing and then will deliver the final game to Jed Smith elementary students. I am confident that the ITEST students will produce amazing games that will help the first and second grade students master basic fundamental mathematics skills. I really enjoy working with the students. I am looking forward to see what games the students will produce by the end of 2012-13 school years.

Edison Chang
McClatchy High School Classroom ITEST Instructor

ITEST Program Updates and Reminders:

- Absences- All absences must be excused by a written note from a parent/guardian. Please contact the ITEST staff prior to any known or planned absences of a student.
- Attire—All ITEST students must be properly dressed for class. No “short” shorts, mid tops, pants that do not fit the torso and hang, or other inappropriate dress.
- Parent Informal “Drop-In” - Please feel free to “informally” drop-in on the final day of class for the McClatchy High School Co-hort to view your student's final math based computer game.
- Stipends—The \$500.00 student stipends will be presented to all eligible ITEST students at the Bonding Event which will take place on July 28th.
- College Seminar and ACT/SAT Math Prep—Every Tuesday at lunch.