

Coding Club: What Is It?

Coding Club was born out of a desire that some of our students had to be able to learn more about coding. This club began with three Students (Hayle-Lynn Driver, Mallory Zimmerman and Serzhio Beson-Chosa). Coach Chris Pieper, retired scientist, who has had extensive work experience in several coding languages related to his job at Kimberly-Clark, has been leading the students to pursue individual coding related interests. Coach Dawn Pieper is present to help and support the students.

What is Coding? *(Information taken from makeuseof.com)*

“**Coding** is the process of using a **programming** language to get a computer to behave how you want it to. Every line of **code** tells the computer to **do** something, and a document full of lines of **code** is called a program or script. Each script is designed to carry out a job. This job might be to do something like take an image and change its size.

Coding is what makes it possible for us to create computer software, apps and websites. Your browser, your OS, the apps on your phone, Facebook, and this website – they're all made with code. Here's a simple **example** of code, written in the Python language: print 'Hello, world!'”

```
# This program prints Hello, world!  
print('Hello, world!')
```

Coding Club was also the catalyst to open the door for students to take the “Coding Course” from Edgenuity. Serzhio finished his coding course in a month! Way to go Serzhio! Hayle and Jesse are in the process of finishing this course.

Coding Club will now be meeting after school on Wednesday’s and several more students have joined. Logan LaBarge, Jesse Shaker, Jessa Zimmerman and Jasmine Zimmerman have been added to the club.

The students will be learning and creating code to help develop a student tab on the STAR website.

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Gingerbread House Creations

By: Mrs. Kozey's Social Communication Class



During the months of December and January, the students of Mrs. Kozey's Social Communication class created gingerbread houses in groups with Occupational Therapist, Tracee. The students had specific directions they needed to follow each week. Here are the steps they took to create their gingerbread houses:

1. Draw a design
2. Create shopping list of materials needed
3. Make frosting
4. Assemble crackers to make gingerbread houses
5. Decorate gingerbread houses



Brett and Deus work together to develop a design for their gingerbread house.

Students came up with a list of skills they used to make the gingerbread houses and how they used those skills. Students said they use their **creativity skills** by drawing, building and decorating a gingerbread house. They were also required to use **communication skills** with their group. This skill was demonstrated by students talking with their partner/group and making agreements about their gingerbread house. The last skill that students stated was **problem-solving skills**. They said they had to use their problem solving skills when it came to finding out a way to keep the walls from falling on their gingerbread houses.



Some students used marshmallows to hold up the walls of the wall!

Students were asked "What was your favorite part of this project?" Here are their responses:

- Parker "Having the Fireballs"
- Ronnie "Assembling the house"
- Tyler "Laughing with my group"
- Deus "Eating the extra goodies"
- Emma "Having fun with my group"
- Brett "Making the gingerbread house"
- Jasmine "Decorating the house"



Ms. Tracee helps Tyler and Ronnie problem solve their gingerbread house!



Check out these finished products!



Work Experience: Truck Country and My Job

By: John Steffen

I am starting a work experience at Truck Country and recently had my first day. I thought it was a fun time! I may increase my hours because it is something I am interested in. At Truck Country, they work on large engines. That is something I find fun, so this is a pretty good match for me to learn. I think the people there are nice and pretty funny at times. They take their job very seriously. This is something that I need to keep me in line and on task. I want to thank everyone that has helped me get into this work experience because I am enjoying it!

Students of the Month



OWEN CLARK

Owen Clark has been chosen as student of the month by STAR School/academy for the month of February. He is an excellent student and a fine young man. His outstanding character traits stand out every day. Owen is mature, kind and helpful. He treats others well, whether he knows them well or not. Owen always gives his best in the classroom. STAR works to help foster self-reliance and determination in all of our students to discover and maximize their unique potential and capabilities. It has been a pleasure to watch Owen discover his potential in and out of the classroom.

Owen discovered great success in running on the LUHS Cross Country Team this past fall. According to the Lakeland Times, "Freshman Owen Clark snuck into the top ten with a ninth place finish, running a time of 20:14.5. He was Lakeland's third best runner." As a freshman Owen was able to get to Sectionals and during Cross Country, he always strove to improve his time and cheer on his teammates. He is now on the JV basketball team at LUHS. He is also participating in the musical "Hello Dolly" as one of the dancing waiters.

His resource teacher reports, "Owen is a great student. He has a great personality and consistently strives to do his best. He is always joking around with other students and is genuinely kind."

Owen participates in some regular education classes at LUHS. One of those classes is Journey where he participates with two other students from STAR. We reached out to ask Journey teacher Mr. Lade how Owen is doing in his class. Mr. Lade states, "I have to say Owen is a joy to have in class. I am thrilled to know that he really enjoys the class. My observations of Owen are that he is eager to participate and lend a hand when things need to get done. He is the type of student I no longer have to watch like a hawk, knowing he is doing what is being asked and helping teach knots and the climbing/belay techniques. He has a kind heart and a willingness to learn and completes written work on time that is well done. Overall, Owen is a model student."

Owen represents STAR School Academy extremely well. Continue to strive to be the best you can be Owen!!! We are proud of you. Congratulations!!

AMANDA SEMMERLING

Amanda has been learning remotely for the 2020-2021 school year, and has been doing a great job participating and staying engaged. She is an enthusiastic learner and is always gives her best effort.



She has a smile for everyone and loves greeting other students through the computer. Amanda also has been practicing her kitchen and cooking skills while at home. Last year, it was difficult for Amanda to hold the vacuum independently and had to have hand over hand for most of her vacuuming. She now is independently moving the boots out of the way with a verbal directive. You can see that she is independently moving the vacuum. At times, Amanda still needs occasional physical and verbal prompts, but she she has grown exponentially in the past year. It is incredible when home and school work in unison to help our students to become the best that they can be! We also love seeing the smile on Amanda's face. She is happy doing these "jobs".

Amanda is particularly talented when it comes to diamond dot art, and demonstrates great fine motor skills. Amanda has demonstrated excellent pencil control. And she has continued to develop her motor skills during the Pandemic. She is very proud to be donating one of her artworks to the 3rd Annual Lakeland STAR Golf Outing.



Amanda works hard on increasing her communication skills across family members and with staff online, demonstrating continued growth with her verbal interactions. Amanda has demonstrated great growth in her independence.

We are pleased and honored to identify Amanda as a STAR Student of the Month! Congratulations!

