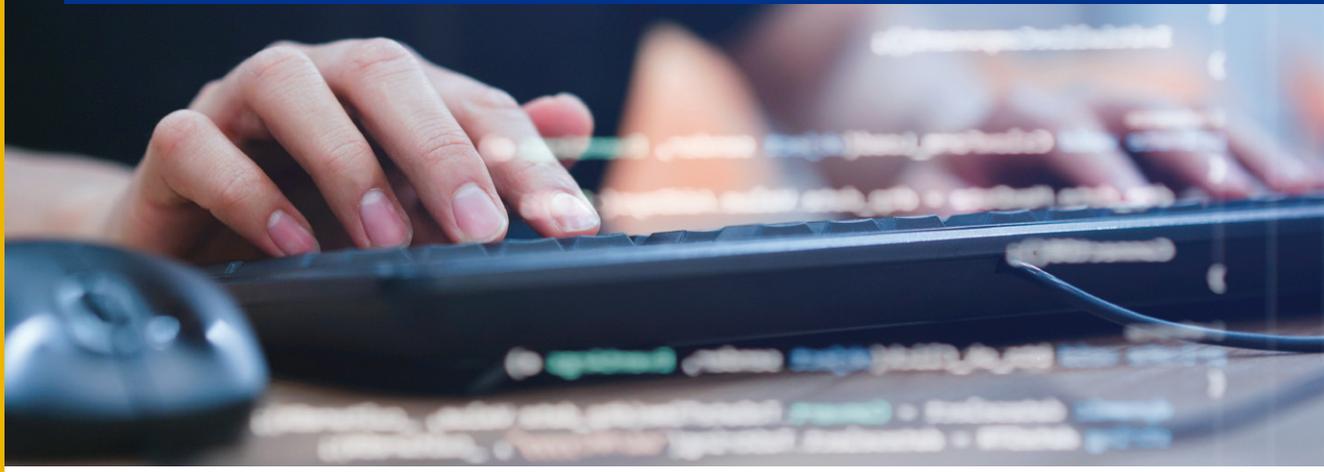


## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: COMPUTER SCIENCE



### Through exploration, investigation and practice, students learn to create with technology

Computer Science at Chimacum Jr./Sr. High School is giving students a solid foundation in technology that's certain to benefit them throughout their lives, no matter the career path they choose.

So far this year, students have learned about the digitization of information and how the Internet works. They've learned how Computer Science impacts a variety of industries, and how it influences society. Coursework invites students to explore, investigate and practice the key concepts of Computer Science, and to ultimately make something by executing those concepts.

In addition to the introductory course, Chimacum's AP Computer Science class takes a project-based approach, with a focus on App development using the JavaScript programming language.

"Chimacum students have made simple games featuring their own art, created apps by designing and coding a user interface, and programmed a variety of robots with different functions," said teacher Charlie Fornia.

Chimacum School District also partners with the Microsoft TEALS (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools) program, which seeks to enhance computer science learning by connecting classrooms with tech-industry volunteers.

"It's fun to be able to watch students overcome preconceived notions about Computer Science," said Fornia. "They quickly realize that they're able to learn and create with it successfully."

### *The exciting world of Esports*

Middle and high school students in Chimacum now have the opportunity to participate in the world of competitive, organized video gaming known as Esports.

An explosive new billion-dollar industry, Esports has been shown to help students develop complex reasoning skills such as strategic thinking, problem solving and leadership. Good mental health is another benefit, thanks to positive teamwork and play. Colleges have begun to take note of Esports as well, attracting students with scholarships.

Learn about the leagues Chimacum plays in and how to get involved with the Esports program by contacting Charlie Fornia at [charles\\_fornia@csd49.org](mailto:charles_fornia@csd49.org).

### *Behind the Program: Charlie Fornia*

In addition to teaching Computer Science & Media at Chimacum Jr./Sr. High School, Charlie Fornia teaches a middle school Technology elective and 7th Grade English. He also serves as the General Manager for the Chimacum eSports program.

Fornia has been a full-time teacher for 12 years, working for Montesano and Vancouver School Districts before coming to Chimacum in 2019. With degrees from Whitworth University in Spokane and the University of Illinois at Chicago, he holds endorsements and certifications in STEAM technologies, communication technologies, publishing, English, Career Technical Education (CTE) and more. Outside of school, Mr. Fornia is an avid backpacker, photographer, and artist.





## DEEP ROOTS BROAD HORIZONS

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## BUILDING STEAM

In Chimacum School District, our students are combining Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) to learn, explore and problem solve in creative and innovative ways. Follow all of our STEAM learning at [www.csd49.org](http://www.csd49.org).



## IT steps up to support students and teachers in time of need

Tasked with student and staff support of all district laptops and desktops, servers, network infrastructure, VoIP phones, audio/visual equipment, onsite applications and cloud applications, the small but mighty IT department at Chimacum School District has played an essential role in the age of COVID-19.

When the pandemic hit last spring, the district's IT team was not only able to distribute a laptop to every student who needed one, they did so with safety and security top of mind.

"We were immediately ready to go to an online learning model," explained IT Director Tim Yaley. "Our student laptops are configured to require students to connect to the Chimacum School District network and be routed through the district's secure firewall, thus protecting students from malicious activities."

Of course, setting students up for technological success was only half the battle; IT had to step up to support the growing needs of Chimacum teachers and staff. Last spring, the department quickly established the following four core software applications for providing online learning to students:

1. Google Classroom (Learning Management System)
2. Google Meet (synchronous, real-time video)
3. Loom Pro and Screencastify (asynchronous, recorded video)
4. Google Drive (document storage)

With remote learning applications in place, IT distributed Microsoft Surface Pro laptops to teachers over the summer. When the 2020-2021 school year began under a hybrid model, teachers had everything they needed to conduct wireless, traditional classroom-style lessons as well as remote learning courses.

"I'm proud of how we've been able to outfit our schools with the technology resources they need to succeed," said Yaley.



## CAMPUS CONNECTION

### Digital literacy skills in focus with new grade 3-6 library

Looking for ways to utilize space more efficiently, the district took a large, underutilized Commons area at Chimacum Elementary and divided the space, creating a new 1,763 square foot library for students in grades 3-6. Described by teachers as "modern" and "cheerful," the new space includes an instructional classroom area equipped with the latest technology for teaching digital literacy skills.

"Digital literacy is the ability to use technology to navigate, evaluate and create information," explained Chimacum Elementary Teacher & Library Media Specialist Michele Moriarty. "Libraries across the country are becoming key players in supporting digital literacy skills in schools at all grade levels. One current focus here in Chimacum has been grade-level digital citizenship lessons, teaching students about how to be safe online. This includes lessons that take on real-life challenges and digital dilemmas that students face today, such as cyberbullying, privacy, and balance and well-being. We want our students to be confident, safe and respectful as they navigate the complex reality of our digital world."

Chimacum School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights, Title IX, and Section 504 Coordinator; Melinda Miller; PO Box 278, Chimacum, WA 98325; [melinda\\_miller@csd49.org](mailto:melinda_miller@csd49.org); 360-302-5886

ABOVE Chimacum's IT team (from top): Tim Yaley, IT Director; Dash Locklear, IT Technician; Carrie Beebe, IT Support Substitute (also serves as Athletic Director)