

## **Dear Future Students,**

Welcome to a class that will challenge you in the best way possible. Programming can feel intimidating at first, but with the right mindset and effort, you'll be surprised at how much you'll grow. My advice is to start strong by paying attention in class. It may sound obvious, but so much of what you'll need later builds on the core concepts introduced in lectures. Taking notes and staying engaged makes a big difference, and you'll thank yourself later when things start to get more complex.

If you find yourself struggling at any point, don't hesitate to ask for help. Whether it's during office hours, from your classmates, or even an online forum, getting clarification early can save you from bigger frustrations down the road. Office hours are a great opportunity to ask questions, get feedback, or even have someone walk you through a concept you're stuck on. Another tip is to never miss class unless it's absolutely unavoidable. Every lecture connects to the next, and it's easy to fall behind if you miss just one. Plus, being present means you can ask questions in real time and participate in discussions that often help solidify your understanding.

When it comes to your projects, don't work in isolation. Have someone look over your code, whether it's a classmate, a friend who knows programming, or even Lady K during office hours. Fresh eyes can catch things you might have missed, from simple typos to more fundamental issues. Feedback is one of the best tools for improvement, and it's always worth the time to hear someone else's perspective.

Most importantly, stay consistent with your effort. Programming is a skill that takes time and practice, and the more you put into it, the more you'll get out of this class. By staying engaged, seeking feedback, and asking for help when needed, you'll set yourself up for success.

Best of luck!