

Code for Teachers

A practical approach to programming

Concept

Why teach programming (as a non-CS teacher)?

- Computational literacy
 - Understanding the world around us
 - Even if we never code, learning to program empowers us
- Computational Thinking
 - Programming is applied reason
 - Pure critical thinking
- Creativity
 - Code is a medium

About You

- K-12 Teacher
- Heard about this “coding” thing
- Maybe you’re curious for yourself
- Maybe you’d like to introduce it to your students
- Unsure how programming is relevant outside of tech-specific work

About Me

- I'm Taggart
- I teach CS at Mirman School for Gifted Children
- But first...I taught English
- I did not major in CS
- I taught myself
- I've taught programming since 2011



Our First Language: Python

- Why Python?
 - Clean Syntax
 - Focus on ideas, not typing
 - Excellent module library
 - Popular in academia and industry
 - Interpreted rather than compiled
 - (More on this later)



Our Tools

- Repl.it
 - An online coding environment
 - No need to download anything
 - Actually a platform for teaching classes
 - I use it at Mirman
 - Easy to get started
- Python.org version of Python