Moving from Business Education to Computer Science Concepts in the Middle Grades

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I don’t know computer science.

I don’t know computer science.
I won’t learn computer science.

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I won’t learn computer science.

I will never teach computer science.

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That was the response from a middle school computer applications teacher after I asked that computer science enrichment be added to the curriculum.

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But how do you change the hearts/minds of the teachers?

In 2013 we offered a new elective called *Tech Revolution:*

Algorithms, Conditionals, Loops, Variables

Mobile apps- gaming-websites

(App Inventor-Scratch-HTML)

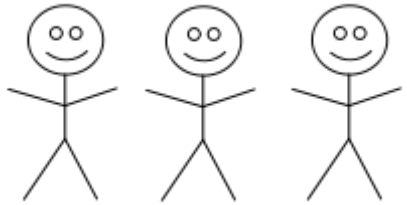
Enrollment is up 25%.

More 8th graders are taking AP CS and coding in high school.

Now we have after school coding clubs in middle and high school.

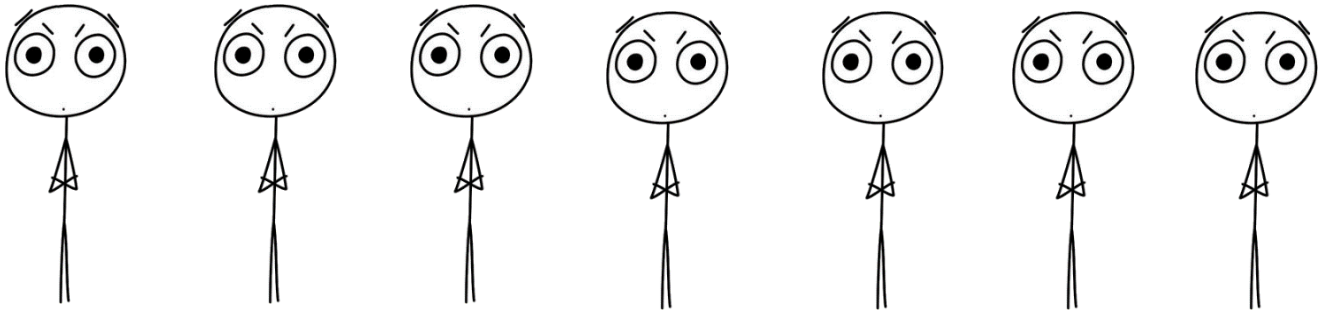
How did the teachers react?

Can’t wait to teach this class!



Excited but nervous. I’ll need some help.

We shouldn’t be teaching this. I don’t want to teach it.



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But their attitudes didn’t change, even after reading current research on all the benefits of teaching kids how to code.

How do you change a mindset?

“73% of high school girls who had a teacher who inspired them said they were interested in studying computing, compared to only 26% of those who had a less inspiring teacher.”

Accenture & Girls Who Code Research Study

How do you inspire a teacher?