Yes, spending 24 hours working on a project outside of school may seem a little daunting- but we promise you will not regret it! First you will make tons of fun memories, meet new people, make a lot of new connections, get free stuff, free food, meet corporate sponsors, and potentially win big prizes. Secondly, on a more serious note, you will further develop your skills in coding, working with hardware, and working on a project as a team. Lots of employers are looking for projects students do outside of school- its interesting, shows passion, unique, and something to talk about during interviews! Hackers also must be present for majority of both days, as well as opening and closing ceremonies.

Hackathons are the greatest things to happen to education since the Internet. Hacking isn't breaking into anything-- It’s breaking your ideas out of the confines of your mind and building them in front of your own eyes and sharing that product with the world.

innovators participate in hackathons to build amazing things, transform dreams into realities, and to meet with other people with the same level of passion to build their future. Hacking is for creators.

Hackathons help personal growth by learning something new, and creating solutions to

a community of people who have ideas and build them.

Simply put, a hackathon is what you get when you take a bunch of people who love to build things, no matter how big or small, throw them all together, and tell them to make something awesome. What exactly that something is can vary – for the most part, it’s a web application of some sort, but some hackathons are focused on hardware hacks, or games. Generally you’ll be encouraged (or required) to use some sponsor’s[API](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_programming_interface) in your project if you want to compete (many hackathons are structured as a competition – but in most cases the true value in a hackathon is the experience, not whether you win or not. There is no such thing as losing a hackathon). We will be giving basic lessons on using an API to make a project in the near future, so don’t worry if you don’t know what exactly an API is yet.

http://hackmcgill.com/blog/