



July 15, 2019

Dear Families:

Bishop Alemany High School has been selected to participate in the *Amazon Future Engineer Program*, a program that will be offered in the 2019-2020 academic year in partnership with Amazon and Edhesive. At the cornerstone of this program are two courses, Intro to Computer Science (open to all students) and AP Computer Science Principles (open to all grade levels, but admission is contingent upon previous experience and department approval). Both of these courses help students develop a foundational understanding in core computer science and programming concepts.

We are thrilled to offer this new program, which will prepare students for the technological world. Whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge upon understanding how technology works, in addition to their ability to problem solve, reason, and think creatively. Only a fraction of students are learning computer science, and fewer study it today than a decade ago. These full-year courses are designed to inspire students in computer science and develop their understanding of how technology and computer science can impact and shape our world.

Encourage your student to sign up for this exciting program. This is an opportunity that can open up collaboration, creativity, and passion – and help unlock a new future for students as they learn and build together.

Students who choose to participate in this program must have access to a laptop computer. Nearly all laptops, regardless of brand, will be compatible with the computer science program materials. The only specification is that they must be no older than a 2008 model. I-Pads unfortunately do not have the capacity to work with the program materials.

You may indicate interest in this program via email at amazonengineering@alemany.org. Please be sure to include your student's full name and grade level. Also, if acquiring a laptop presents a hardship for your family, please be sure to include that information. If you have an extra post-2008 laptop that is not in use, please consider donating it to the program for a student who cannot afford one!

Thank you and we look forward to teaching these valuable skills to your students this school year!

Sincerely,

Alexis Arnold
Assistant Principal of Academics