CodeVA Quarterly

Re-Introducing

CodeVA

EDUCATE INNOVATE ELEVATE

NEW LOOK
SAME COMMITMENT

Although our branding is new, we remain committed to providing and expanding computer science education opportunities for all learners.

What's inside:

APRIL 2025

Introducing: The Classy Coders Podcast

Classy Coders Podcast

Sponsored by CodeVA

Listen on our website or follow this QR code to our Linktree for Apple and Spotify options!

This February, we launched **Classy Coders**, a podcast designed to connect the world of computer science education with the rapidly evolving tech industry.

Our latest episode features a CodeVA team member and a CTE professor from Goochland County Schools as they dive into a rich discussion on computer science pedagogy—exploring the balance between student agency in open-ended projects and the structure of guided, outcome-based learning.

Have ideas for sponsorships and episode themes?
Reach out to our podcast host:
alanireland@codevirginia.org

From Left: Denise Orndorff - Frederick County Schools, Alan Ireland - CodeVirginia, Dora Palfi - Imagi

Help us grow **Classy Coders** into a valuable resource for aspiring tech professionals. Share your show topic and guest ideas with our show producer, Alan!

Sponsoring an episode is a unique opportunity to showcase your commitment to equitable computer science education while connecting with a passionate audience of educators, students, and industry professionals. To learn more about the opportunity contact our producer!

codevirginia.org/our-communications

Want to keep receiving this newsletter?

SUBSCRIBE!

Interested in the print copy of this newsletter? Email us at Newsletter@codevirginia.org

CODEVA'S IMPACT

Check it out!

255 hours of professional development delivered in Q2 2024

50+ professional development workshops delivered in Q2 2024

928 registered participants Q2 2024

ADVOCACY DAY

CodeVA
EDUCATE INNOVATE ELEVATE
ADVOCACY DAY 2025

This February, we had the privilege of hosting a tremendously successful **Computer Science Education Advocacy Day** at the Virginia General Assembly! Our team, alongside passionate advocates and supporters, engaged in meaningful conversations with legislators about the critical role computer science education plays in building Virginia's future workforce.

We showcased our AI Curriculum Pathways Project, which empowers students to design and create their own AI tools, preparing them for success in an increasingly competitive, tech-driven workforce. Legislators were inspired by the vision of equipping all students—not just those in urban areas but also in rural and underserved communities—with the resources and opportunities to thrive.

We also advocated for increased state funding to better support educators across the Commonwealth. By providing training and curriculum resources, particularly to teachers in areas that have historically lacked access, we are ensuring that every student has the chance to succeed in computer science.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, supported us, or cheered us on from afar. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more equitable future for computer science education in Virginia! Stay tuned for more opportunities to participate in advocacy with CodeVA!

Photos
Left: Jon Stapleton & Megan Graybill
Right: Jon Stapleton and a student

HARRISONBURG STEM DAY HIGHLIGHT

STEM Day with Harrisonburg Country Public Schools was an absolute success! **Over 400 students** were in attendance and we were able to share some of our amazing activities like data analysis, SCRATCH, and even Python! Want to talk about hosting a STEM Day in your district? Contact us today! We'd love to work with you!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

LEGO

Google

amazon future engineer

VTEC STEM KIT COLLAB

VIRGINIA TRIBAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
United for Education
VTEC

+

CodeVA

We're making a **STEM NIGHT IN A BOX!**!!

In collaboration with the Virginia Tribal Education Consortium, we're helping to build a **STEM Education KIT**!
These kits support all grade levels of computer science education with **self-led projects, unplugged activities**, and practical coding knowledge baked right in!

We're always proud to work with Virginia's native community.

Interested in a STEM Kit for you or your organization?

Contact us at: codevirginia.org/stem

Meet Kinzie and the MegaBytes!

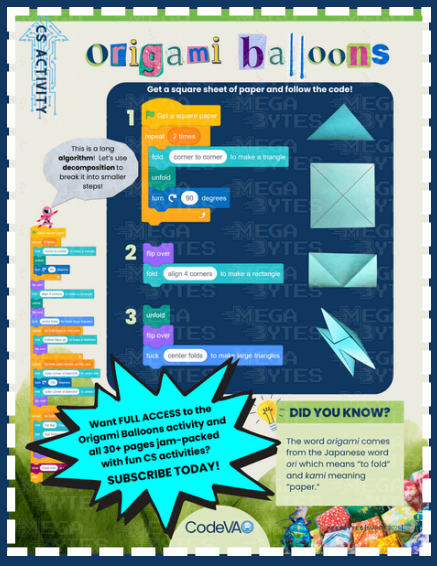
Ignite your child's passion for the digital world! **MegaBytes** magazine promises an exciting journey into computer science, transforming young readers into CS Superheroes! With a focus on essential skills like **algorithms, debugging, and binary code** in its premiere issue, it's the perfect launchpad for future tech leaders.

Purchase an issue or subscription today and let the adventure begin!

codevirginia.org/megabytes

Megabytes goes beyond reading. Each issue is packed with exciting activities like origami, paper crafts, data analysis challenges, and cryptography puzzles designed to develop **critical thinking, problem-solving skills,** and a practical understanding of **computer science principles**.

In **Kinzie and the Glitch,** young readers join the **MegaBytes** in a thrilling adventure to apply strategies to debug code and defeat the mischievous Glitch. **MegaBytes** makes problem-solving fun, demonstrating the **real-world applications** of computer science in an engaging story format.



MegaBytes combines art and computer science with engaging learning activities like making a binary beaded bracelet, and even creating origami. Children will learn the language of computers in a **hands-on, tangible** way, solidifying their understanding of algorithms and their importance.

COMING SOON 2025

Programming INSTITUTE

Computer Science

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

The CodeVA **Programming Institute** is a high-intensity, in-person, three-day crash course designed to help educators prepare to teach coding in their classrooms. During the program, participants will work hands-on with programming languages, complete coding projects, and study lesson plans and curricular resources as they make a plan for providing high-quality coding instruction in their schools.

The 2025 CodeVA **Programming Institute** supports four programming tools/languages to focus on during the course:

- Python, with a particular focus on creating command-line (i.e., text-based without graphics) programs
- Java using the Processing IDE, which focuses on creating visual art & games using a beginner-friendly graphics library
- Micro:Bit, using the MakeCode web-based editor. The Institute will provide Micro:Bits for educators to use during the program.
- Twine, a text-based web tool for creating interactive stories
- Javascript
- Scratch

Participants will learn the basics of coding pedagogy, explore instructional strategies, and analyze the Computer Science SOLs to identify developmentally appropriate skills students should learn in their classes.

During the program, participants will work with their chosen programming language to create a project, learning practical skills with their chosen tool. Finally, at the end, participants will identify curricula and resources to extend their learning and support instruction through the academic year.

Successful completion of this course earns you **18 CEUs**!

codevirginia.org/programming-institute

Support the future of tech education!

Rock our merch and help code a brighter tomorrow!

We launched a merch store!

Now your drip can be rizzed up!
(are we saying that right?)

bonfire.com/store/codeva-merch-store/