

CS–A Recommendations

- Use your own laptop if possible.
- Have a set of head phones or ear buds at every class.
- BACKUP all files to other drives sequentially and often (typically a flash drive AND the cloud)!
- Install the following software (all free – find through Google);
 1. Java JRE (your machine should already have latest version)
 2. Java JDK (SE) + NetBeans (32 or 64 bit depending upon your machine)
 3. **Eclipse. WE WILL USE Eclipse as our IDE (integrated developer environment). It may be necessary to set your windows environmental variable (System Variable Path) to find the JDK... visit Google to see how to accomplish this task as necessary.) If you are in love with NetBeans, you may use it as your IDE.**
- We MAY also be installing and using:
 1. JCreator (www.jcreator.com)
 2. BlueJ (www.bluej.org)
 3. **GreenFoot (www.greenfoot.org)**
- Learn / know the file system on your machines (File Explorer).
- Be familiar with accessing / bookmark the Oracle JAVA 8 API (application programming interface) at: (<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/overview-summary.html>)
- You must take detailed notes (including / especially examples of code). [Learn and use ONE Note in Office 2010 or 2013](#) (or some other similar software) as the vehicle to take these notes, paste code examples, etc. THIS IS HOW NOTE TAKING IS ACCOMPLISHED BY PROGRAMMERS. Visit <http://www.snapfiles.com/freeware/productivity/fwnotetaking.html> for some FREE note taking applications other than ONE Note.
- Store in the cloud... I suggest ONE Drive from Microsoft (get/use a professional MSN.com email account). You may use Google Drive or Drop Box but I recommend ONE Drive. Keep your notes not only on your hard drive but also in the cloud. You will be required to permit me to view your cloud notebook (on ONE Drive) for grading purposes. Read ONE Note help on how to send me the necessary link. When school starts, I will permit you to view my ONE Note Java notebook.
- **You must study on your own at least 60+ minutes each day... use self-study resources such as YouTube.com, [Java for Beginners - http://courses.caveofprogramming.com/courses/java-for-complete-beginners](#) by John Purcell.**

- Also, visit [udemy.com](https://www.udemy.com/courses/) at <https://www.udemy.com/courses/> to purchase/use courses at very low prices. Many, many, many other sites are available to learn general/specific skills.
- I RECOMMEND YOU COMPLETE JAVA FOR BEGINNERS by John Purcell DURING THE SUMMER! It is free and in small, 20 minute, bite sizes. LEARN TO PRACTICE TAKING (ONE) NOTES WHILE USING THIS COURSE.
- Outside of class, write and test code by creating applications YOU find interesting.
- Visit www.markeredwards.com/APCompSc/APCS-A.html to view previous course projects!
- Ten tips for coding (see Java for Beginners: Lesson 66 in CaveOfProgramming.com):
 1. Learn to type
 2. Name variables/methods (subroutines) logically.
 3. Learn by writing code rather than just studying code in examples.
 4. Write software / apps that are of interest to you.
 5. Read bug errors from top down, and rerun after fixing 1st error.
 6. Write smallest program possible... get the basics working before embellishing the code.
 7. Google for info and errors solutions (many other programmers have asked this question before).
 8. Build programs one part at a time. Build Part A and get it to work. Then build Part B and get it to work, etc. Otherwise, it's difficult to find your errors! Build then run, build then run, etc.
 9. Ensure braces {} always pair up. These define the scope of methods, operators, etc.
 10. Format correctly (in Eclipse Ctrl+shift+f) and keep it formatted. Also, use industry accepted notation for variables, etc.
- Leave yourself plenty of time to complete assignments (estimate the time t then multiple by 3 and add 10 hours).
- Other suggestions may follow... so, visit <http://www.markeredwards.com/APCompSc/APCS-A.html> every few days.
- Call me at 429-1539 or email me at mheinen_1@msn.com with questions and/or comments.