

Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation Report

October 2014

Project: HackScarsdale

Funding: \$25,000 for the Middle School

Accomplishments in 2013-14

The initial year of the Hack Scarsdale Initiative focused on recruiting students and exposing them to what was required to embark on software development. To this end, they recruited approximately twenty-four students and organized school visits and presentations by members of the Scarsdale community in software development to share their expertise in the field. A highlight of their work was a trip to Yale University, where students and teachers learned about the HackYale project from the project's organizers and visited the Center for Engineering Innovation and Design.



The visit sparked ideas in students, but the HackScarsdale team, lead by computer teachers Greg Leong and Jodi Giroux, realized that students needed a foundation to begin their work. Many students who volunteered for the program had little or no prior programming experience, so this first year has been devoted to introducing the students to a variety of development platforms (Android/iOS apps, java, html 5, etc.). Students have begun to explore these environments (in group sessions, or through online tutorials) and are now beginning to develop their own project ideas. Projects are in a very preliminary stage - a few students have an idea and have selected a platform; some have an idea but don't yet know which platform they will use; others are still searching for a project idea.

Students spent the last quarter of 2013-14 developing their projects. In June 2014, three teams presented their finished projects to the Center for Innovation Directors, Jerry Crisci and Lynne Shain:

- SHS matchmaker program - java application to facilitate an annual fundraiser for student government
- Cutest Pet Contest - html/web project for H.E.L.P. Animals club
- Sudoku solver

The team is facing some challenges this year, including finding appropriate technical resources to support the wide variety of development platforms students want to explore. In addition, the team needs to find ways to engage students who have many other extra-curricular commitments, helping them to find adequate time in their schedules, both during school and after school.



Plans for 2014-15:

For the new school year, the team's plans include:

- Hosting an "app development" contest to focus participants on production, raise awareness of the club and develop apps that would benefit our community
- Continuing to expand the library of resources (hardware, software and expertise) that are accessible to students
- Expanding participation by students interested in related fields (i.e., graphic arts)
- Reaching out to the community for expertise by connecting with the SHS Alumni Association

Budget Summary

Allocation:	\$30,000
Expenditures:	\$10,142
Current Balance	\$19,858