



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487



OUSD Announces New Partnership with Code.org to Engage Students in Computer Science

ORANGE, CA – October 8, 2014 – Orange Unified School District (OUSD) today announced a partnership with Code.org that will aim to increase participation in computer science courses by women and underrepresented students of various ethnic backgrounds.

Code.org is a non-profit dedicated to expanding computer science education by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and minorities. Their vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to have access to computer science education. Code.org believes computer science should be part of the core curriculum in education, alongside other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses, such as biology, physics, chemistry and algebra.

“Code.org is excited to partner with Orange USD to expand access to computer science. They are among the handful of districts leading the nation in this movement,” said Cameron Wilson of Code.org. “This partnership can help change the lives of the districts’ students by preparing them to think critically about real world problems and put them on a pathway toward the highest demand jobs in the U.S. economy.”

The partnership will begin in the 2014-15 school year at the five high schools and Alternative Ed. Program, the five middle schools and also includes elementary schools, kindergarten through fifth grade. Students at these schools will have increased access to computer science courses, curriculum and resources. The partnership will also provide new opportunities for professional development and training for OUSD teachers, in addition to creating a sustainable program via a community of support for the teachers.

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen, Deputy Superintendent states, “This partnership with Code.org and Orange Unified School District aligns with the District’s ongoing efforts to provide students with increased access to instructional resources and innovative 21st century technologies that enhance learning.”

Currently, only 2% of students study computer science and 60% of jobs are in computing. Too often we focus just on exposing students to new technologies such as tablets, desktops, and “Smartboards” instead of helping them to be creators of technology, who use it in their core subjects – English, mathematics, science and everyday life. Computer Science allows students to turn dreams into reality and solve some of the world’s hardest problems.

More information about Code.org is available on their website at <http://code.org>.

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The Orange Unified School District educates approximately 30,000 students in the Cities of Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and county areas. The school district, founded in 1953, encompasses 108 square miles. The District office is located at 1401 N. Handy Street, Orange, California.