

Unit 1-Problem Solving and Computing

Content Area: **Technology**
Course(s): **Computer Science Discoveries**
Time Period:
Length: **4 weeks Grade 8**
Status: **Published**

Title Section

Department of Curriculum and Instruction



Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

Computer Science Discoveries, Grade 8

Problem Solving and Computing

Belleville Board of Education

102 Passaic Avenue

Belleville, NJ 07109

Prepared by: **Teacher, Jacqueline Pagano**

Dr. Richard Tomko, Ph.D., M.J., Superintendent of Schools

Ms. LucyAnn Demikoff, Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-12

Ms. Nicole Shanklin, Director of Elementary Education K-8

Mr. George Droste, Director of Secondary Education

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Unit Overview

The Problem Solving and Computing unit is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science, as framed within the broader pursuit of solving problems. Through a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios, students are introduced to a problem solving process that they will return to repeatedly throughout the course. Students then learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems within the context of apps. The unit concludes with students designing an app that helps solve a problem of their choosing.

Enduring Understanding

Chapter 1 guides students to develop and adopt a more formal structured problem solving process by reflecting on problems they have encountered, both in the classroom and everyday life. By working through a diverse set of problems, such as logic puzzles, engineering challenges, and planning a trip, students learn to identify different classes of problems, decompose large problems, and develop their personal problem solving skills.

Chapter 2 presents computers as machines that solve information problems. Students begin by building a common definition for a computer that focuses on functionality instead of specific hardware. They then explore the ways that computers approach problems. For their final project, students propose an app that could be used to solve a problem of their choosing.

Essential Questions

What strategies and processes can I use to become a more effective problem solver?

How do computers help people to solve problems?

How do people and computers approach problems differently?

What does a computer need from people in order to solve problems effectively?

Exit Skills

Examples:

By the end of Grade 8, CS Discoveries Unit 1, the student should be able to:

- Develop skills to become a more effective problem solver.
- Have an understanding on how computers help people solve problems.
- The difference between people and computers solving problems.
- What computers need from people to solve problems.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL-S)

SOC.6.1.12.CivicsPD.1.a

Use multiple sources to analyze the factors that led to an increase in the political rights and participation in government.

TECH.8.1.8

Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.

TECH.8.1.8.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.8.A.2	Create a document (e.g., newsletter, reports, personalized learning plan, business letters or flyers) using one or more digital applications to be critiqued by professionals for usability.
TECH.8.1.8.A.3	Use and/or develop a simulation that provides an environment to solve a real world problem or theory.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.8.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.8.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.8.B.CS2	Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
TECH.8.1.8.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
TECH.8.1.8.C.CS4	Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.
TECH.8.1.8.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.8.D.1	Understand and model appropriate online behaviors related to cyber safety, cyber bullying, cyber security, and cyber ethics including appropriate use of social media.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS1	Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS3	Exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.
TECH.8.1.8.F	Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
TECH.8.1.8.F.CS1	Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.
TECH.8.1.8.F.CS2	Plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project.
TECH.8.2.8	Technology Education, Engineering, Design, and Computational Thinking - Programming: All students will develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology, engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment.
TECH.8.2.8.A	The Nature of Technology: Creativity and Innovation: Technology systems impact every aspect of the world in which we live.
TECH.8.2.8.A.CS1	The characteristics and scope of technology.
TECH.8.2.8.A.CS2	The core concepts of technology.
TECH.8.2.8.A.CS3	The relationships among technologies and the connections between technology and other fields of study.
TECH.8.2.8.C	Design: The design process is a systematic approach to solving problems.
TECH.8.2.8.C.4	Identify the steps in the design process that would be used to solve a designated problem.
TECH.8.2.8.C.5b	Create a technical sketch of a product with materials and measurements labeled.
TECH.8.2.8.C.CS1	The attributes of design.
TECH.8.2.8.C.CS2	The application of engineering design.
TECH.8.2.8.C.CS3	The role of troubleshooting, research and development, invention and innovation and experimentation in problem solving.

Interdisciplinary Connections

LA.RL.8.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
6-8.MS-ETS1-2	Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
6-8.MS-ETS1-1.ETS1.A.1	The more precisely a design task's criteria and constraints can be defined, the more likely it is that the designed solution will be successful. Specification of constraints includes consideration of scientific principles and other relevant knowledge that are likely to limit possible solutions. Craft and Structure

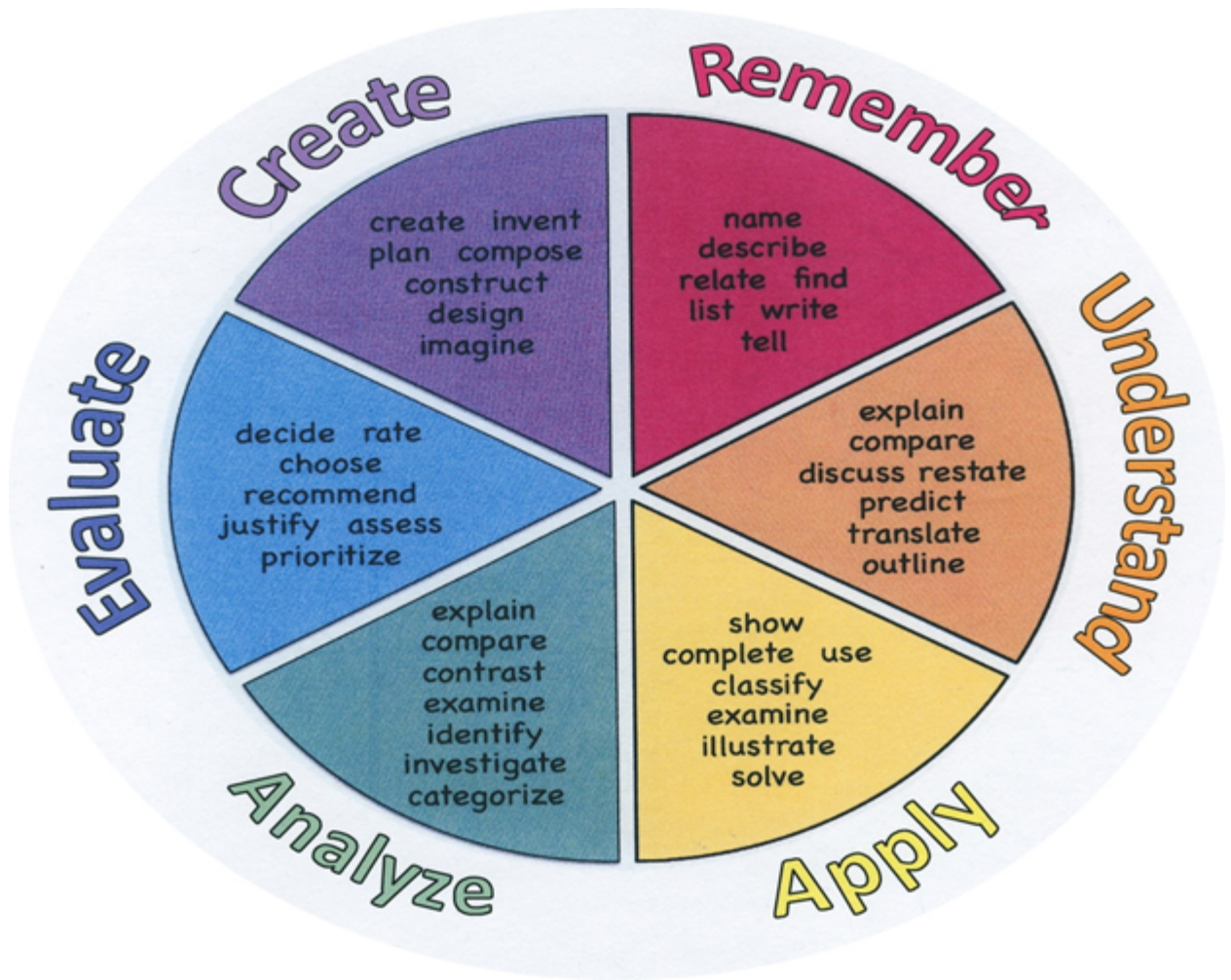
Learning Objectives

- Communicate and collaborate with classmates in order to solve a problem
- Iteratively improve a solution to a problem
- Identify different strategies used to solve a problem
- Given a problem, identify individual actions that would fall within each step of the problem solving process
- Identify useful strategies within each step of the problem solving process
- Apply the problem solving process to approach a variety of problems
- Assess how well-defined a problem is and use strategies to define the problem more precisely
- Identify a computer as a machine that works with information
- Reason about whether particular objects are or are not computers.
- Choose problems that can be solved with computing and justify those choices.
- Select the inputs and outputs used to perform common computing tasks
- Explain the role that input and output take when computers are used to solve information problems.
- Define processing as the work done (possibly by a computer) to turn an input into an output
- Identify several common types of processing used in computing.
- Determine which types of processing are appropriate for a particular computing problem.
- Determine which information in a computing problem should be stored for later use.
- Identify guidelines regarding what information should and should not be stored as part of the computing process.
- Use the input-output-storage-processing model to describe a computing process.
- Identify and define a problem that could be solved using computing
- Design an app that inputs, outputs, stores, and processes information in order to solve a problem
- Provide and incorporate targeted peer feedback to improve a computing artifact
- Communicate and collaborate with classmates in order to solve a problem
- Iteratively improve a solution to a problem

- Identify different strategies used to solve a problem
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Action Verbs: Below are examples of action verbs associated with each level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			
	Convert	Manipulate			
	Discuss	Modify			
	Estimate	Operate			
	Extrapolate	Subtract			
	Generalize				
	Predict				



Suggested Activities & Best Practices

In addition to the below unplugged activities there are additional activities in Code.org Unit 1 that students will be completing throughout the unit.

Building an Aluminum Boat

Give students a couple minutes to discuss in groups the approach they will be taking with this first boat. Once groups have recorded their ideas and some possible weaknesses they can come to you to get their aluminum foil and begin building their boats.

Once groups are ready, have them test their boats by dropping individual pennies into the boat. Remind them of the rules, specifically that they can't touch or adjust the boats once they're in the water. Have them record the total number of pennies held on their activity guides.

Run the same activity: redesign the boat, build the second boat. See which boat holds more pennies.

Reflect

Computer or Not?

Distribute: Activity Guide as well as scissors, markers / colored pencils, poster paper, and glue / tape for making posters. (Note that there are two possible versions of the activity guide. Choose the best for your class, or give different groups different versions.)

Give students the following directions:

- **Draw a line down the middle of your poster, label one side "Computer" and the other "Not a Computer"**
- **Discuss as a group which of the objects in your set (from the activity guide) belong in each category**
- **Once your group is in agreement tape your objects to the appropriate side**
- **Develop a list of characteristics your groups used to determine whether an object is a computer**
- **Share: Have each group briefly present their posters, focusing their discussion on the following points**
 - 1. What rules or definition did you use to categorize your objects?**
 - 2. Which item was most difficult for you to categorize? How did you eventually make the decision of where to place it?**

Invite the audience to respectfully question any categorizations if they disagree with the presenting group's decisions.

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

By identifying the **Evidence of Student Learning with Checking for Understanding (CFU)** techniques used during the lesson and/or for Closure (Madeline Hunter), please list the variety of means used to assess students' learning (e.g. quizzes, tests, academic prompts, observations, homework, journals).

At the end of each lesson, there is a hands on quiz each student will complete before moving on to the next lesson. - Formative

After the completion of each unit there is a test on the unit. The test consists of completing each of the

activities taught throughout the unit to work towards building their website or game. - Summative

Students may also have the opportunity of completing tasks one by one instead of building the website or game. This will be graded through completion of the task or observation of their work. - Alternative

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep

- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

Primary Resources & Materials

Please list all district-provided Primary Resources & Materials and/or those outside that are accessed with district resources.

Code.org

Google coding

Ancillary Resources

Please list all additional resources that will be used to strengthen this unit's lessons.

Everfi

Typing.com

Technology Infusion

What **Technology Infusion** and/or strategies are integrated into this unit to enhance learning? Please list all hardware, software and strategies. Please find a technology pedagogy wheel for assistance while completing this section.

Students will be using Chrome Books to access Code.org, Everfi, typing.com and Google apps.

Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP.K-12.CRP3.1	Career-ready individuals understand the relationship between personal health, workplace performance and personal well-being; they act on that understanding to regularly practice healthy diet, exercise and mental health activities. Career-ready individuals also take regular action to contribute to their personal financial well-being, understanding that personal financial security provides the peace of mind required to contribute more fully to their own career success.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP5.1	Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly

make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.

CRP.K-12.CRP6

Demonstrate creativity and innovation.

CRP.K-12.CRP6.1

Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.

CRP.K-12.CRP8

Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

CRP.K-12.CRP8.1

Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem; they thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.

CRP.K-12.CRP9

Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.

CRP.K-12.CRP9.1

Career-ready individuals consistently act in ways that align personal and community-held ideals and principles while employing strategies to positively influence others in the workplace. They have a clear understanding of integrity and act on this understanding in every decision. They use a variety of means to positively impact the directions and actions of a team or organization, and they apply insights into human behavior to change others' action, attitudes and/or beliefs. They recognize the near-term and long-term effects that management's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morals and organizational culture.

CRP.K-12.CRP11

Use technology to enhance productivity.

CRP.K-12.CRP11.1

Career-ready individuals find and maximize the productive value of existing and new technology to accomplish workplace tasks and solve workplace problems. They are flexible and adaptive in acquiring new technology. They are proficient with ubiquitous technology applications. They understand the inherent risks-personal and organizational-of technology applications, and they take actions to prevent or mitigate these risks.

CAEP.9.2.8.B.1

Research careers within the 16 Career Clusters[®] and determine attributes of career success.

CAEP.9.2.8.B.3

Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.

CAEP.9.2.8.B.4

Evaluate how traditional and nontraditional careers have evolved regionally, nationally, and globally.

CAEP.9.2.8.B.6

Demonstrate understanding of the necessary preparation and legal requirements to enter the workforce.

CAEP.9.2.8.B.7

Evaluate the impact of online activities and social media on employer decisions.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

21st Century Skills

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

Differentiation

Please remember: Effective educational **Differentiation** in a lesson lies within content, process, and/or product. Each item will be used as needed.

* Extra time to complete assignments.

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides

- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary-Vocabulary for each lesson will be listed on a vocabulary sheet. The Google Doc will have all the vocabulary as we move through the unit.
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan-If a student needs a plan, we will create expectations that the student is able to work within and complete the necessary work.
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting-Set a meeting with a select group of students to reteach a lesson.

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments-Some students will complete a website or game, others will complete specific activities only, and others will enhance their website or game.
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas-Work with students to create daily or weekly agendas to help with completion of activities.
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest-When the student is creating their website, they can put information that interests them on the site.
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills-Select a group of students who need more information to complete a task and have a google meet session.
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies

- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

* Students can work with an assigned partner.

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multiple test sessions
- multi-sensory presentation
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

* Students may be assigned a partner for tutoring & assistance in class.

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

At Risk

* Students can correct errors on assignments.

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers

- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

* Utilize Project based Learning for greater depth of knowledge.

- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

Sample Lesson

Unit Name: Problem Solving and Computing

NJSLS: See Attached

Interdisciplinary Connection: Computer Applications connects to all classes.

Statement of Objective: SWBAT: Communicate and collaborate with classmates in order to solve a problem, Iteratively improve a solution to a problem and Identify different strategies used to solve a problem.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now: Code.org CS Discoveries Unit 1-review

Learning Activity: Problem solving- create an aluminum foil boat

Student Assessment/CFU's: Journaling, Illustration

Materials: computers, foil, pennies, containers with water

21st Century Themes and Skills: See attached

Differentiation:

- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Use manipulatives
- Multisensory approaches

Integration of Technology: Journaling within a google doc. Building a "boat" that holds as many pennies as possible.

Using the template below, please develop a **Sample Lesson** for the first unit only.

TECH.8.1.8.A.3	Use and/or develop a simulation that provides an environment to solve a real world problem or theory.
TECH.8.1.8.B.CS1	Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
TECH.8.1.8.C.CS4	Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.
TECH.8.1.8.F.CS1	Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.