

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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Hopatcong, New Jersey

Title: **Hopatcong Participates in the Hour of Code**

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces-

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago. That is why Cathy Giugliano, a 6th grade math teacher at Hopatcong Middle School, lead a whole-school activity by joining in on the largest learning event in history-- The Hour of Code-- during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7-13). More than 100 million students worldwide have already took part in the Hour of Code activity.

By participating in the Hour of Code, it is a statement that Hopatcong School District is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. Students in grades 2-12 participated in the Hour of Code this year, engaging in different projects across the grade levels. The 2nd grade students at Tulsa Trail focused on basic coding and used the Angry Birds activity to practice writing code. The 3rd grade students used mostly Minecraft and Frozen as their coding activity which made for a slightly more challenging task since they also participated in the Hour of Code last year. At Durban Avenue School, both the 4th and 5th grades participated during computer class. "Students had a choice of using the links used at Tulsa or *Scratch*, a website used for coding with various cartoon characters and random backgrounds", explained Mrs. Dawn Forbes, Computer Skills Teacher at both elementary schools.

Additionally, at Hopatcong High School, students enrolled in Mr. Victor Jimenez's computer-based electives enhanced their introductory computer science skills by completing challenges as outlined at the related website: <https://code.org>. More information about this annual nationally recognized event can be found at <http://hourofcode.com/us>.