

Composite: Code Combat

Year 9

Teaching an introduction to programming through CodeCombat is valuable because it turns abstract concepts into hands-on, engaging experiences. Students learn the basics of coding by controlling characters, solving puzzles, and completing challenges, which makes problem-solving feel fun and achievable. The game-based approach helps learners understand sequencing, logic, and debugging without feeling overwhelmed. As they progress, they build confidence in writing real code and thinking computationally. These early skills form a strong foundation for future programming work, encouraging creativity, resilience, and analytical thinking. CodeCombat makes coding accessible, motivating students to explore technology with curiosity and independence.

Belong

CodeCombat creates an inclusive and supportive learning space where every student—regardless of prior coding experience—can participate and feel successful. The visual gameplay, scaffolded levels, and instant feedback help learners feel comfortable exploring programming at their own pace. Collaborative challenges and shared progress also foster teamwork, communication, and a sense of belonging within the classroom community.

Achieve

Through CodeCombat, students learn key programming concepts such as sequences, loops, variables, functions, and debugging in a structured and measurable way. The game-based approach encourages persistence and problem-solving, helping students develop the logical thinking required for success in computing and across the curriculum. The platform's progression supports academic achievement by building depth of understanding and preparing learners for more advanced coding and computer science work.

Thrive

CodeCombat allows students to thrive by giving them opportunities to apply their learning creatively and independently. As they design strategies, solve increasingly complex puzzles, and explore real-world coding languages, learners build confidence and self-belief. These skills not only prepare them for future study and careers in digital fields but also help them develop the adaptability and resilience needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving technological world.

Composite: Python programming

Year 9

We teach Python programming because it equips students with the essential skills they need to participate confidently in an increasingly digital world. Python is accessible, versatile, and widely used across industries—from science and engineering to game design, data analysis, and artificial intelligence. Its clear, readable syntax helps learners develop strong problem-solving and logical-thinking skills, while also building their creativity as they design solutions, automate tasks, and develop interactive projects.

Our approach is grounded in the belief that all students should **Belong, Achieve, and Thrive**:

- **Belong:** Python’s simplicity allows every learner, regardless of their starting point, to feel included and capable. Through collaborative tasks and supportive learning environments, students build confidence as part of a community of coders.
- **Achieve:** Python enables students to experience success early, motivating them to take on increasingly complex challenges. As their skills grow, they gain a sense of accomplishment and see clear links between their learning and real-world applications.
- **Thrive:** By developing computational thinking, resilience, and digital literacy, students are empowered to thrive in future study, employment, and life. Python gives them the tools to innovate, express ideas, and adapt within a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Composite: Photo editing software

Year 9

We teach photo editing software because visual communication is a vital skill in today’s digital world. From social media to marketing, journalism, design, and everyday communication, the ability to create, enhance, and evaluate digital images empowers students to express themselves creatively and confidently. Learning photo editing also develops technical precision, critical thinking, and an understanding of how digital media shapes the world around us.

Our curriculum is built on the principles of **Belong, Achieve, and Thrive**:

- **Belong:** Photo editing tools offer accessible, hands-on learning experiences that allow all students to engage, regardless of prior experience. Collaborative creative tasks help learners feel part of a supportive community where everyone’s ideas and perspectives are valued.
- **Achieve:** Students quickly see tangible results from their efforts—transforming images, applying effects, and producing professional-quality work. These visible successes build motivation, reinforce skill development, and support progress across a range of digital competencies.
- **Thrive:** By mastering digital creativity tools, students gain confidence to express themselves visually, adapt to new technologies, and apply their skills in real-world contexts. These capabilities prepare them for future study, modern careers, and active participation in an image-rich digital society.