TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

Glossary for Computational Thinking Strand

Glossary Term	Definition
abstraction	the principle of ignoring those aspects of a subject that are not relevant to the current purpose in order to concentrate solely on those that are
algorithm	a process, or list of steps, followed to solve a problem or complete a task
block-based programming	a visual programming language that uses graphical blocks to build sequences of code
code	instructions for a computer (as within a piece of software); the symbolic arrangement of statements or instructions in a computer program, or the set of instructions in such a program;
conditional	a step or event that allows for the execution of an additional step based on certain criteria, such as blocks of code in computer science
data	factual information (such as observations, measurements, or statistics) used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation; often includes both useful and irrelevant or redundant information and must be processed to be meaningful
debug	to eliminate errors in or malfunctions of
decompose	breaking a problem into smaller pieces, or subprocesses, to describe, understand, or better solve the problem
flowchart	a diagram that shows step-by-step progression through a procedure or system especially using connecting lines and a set of conventional symbols
iteration	repetition of steps within a program to create efficiency
loop	a sequence of instructions that is repeated until a prescribed condition, such as agreement with a data element or completion of a count, is satisfied
nested loop	a loop statement inside another loop statement
pattern	a combination of qualities, acts, tendencies, etc., forming a consistent or characteristic arrangement
pseudocode	a step-by-step description of an algorithm that uses English text rather than programming language
sequence	the following of one thing after another; succession

Glossary Term	Definition
text-based programming	a type of coding that involves writing lines of code in a programming language to tell a computer what to do
troubleshoot	to discover and eliminate problems or malfunctions in (software, mechanical equipment, etc.)
variable	a quantity or function that may assume any given value or set of values; a unit of storage that can be modified during program execution