Question 3: What would you like to learn in this course?

The three of us are most interested in the “how to teach programming” portion of the course. We are all coming from different backgrounds and teach different courses. Eric is more self taught in programming Java and developed the curriculum for the courses he teaches on his own. Troy is a social studies teacher turned technology teacher who has been teaching Scratch in middle school, and who will most likely be using the Code.org curriculum at the high school moving forward. Jonathan is a math teacher turned technology and engineering teacher, who created the courses he teaches based on the FOP course he took as an undergrad at UNI using both Python and Java and is creating an Intro to CS course for next year.

With our different backgrounds, we would like to learn more about what we should focus on in our curriculum. What are the skills and knowledge we should cover? How should we introduce and build different topics? What should we consider when picking which programming languages to use? How can we supplement our curriculum to fill in gaps and then extend it for students who are excelling?

We are also looking forward to the topics about good and efficient code and our programming skills as the teacher. We did not directly discuss “elements of good code” in our FOP course, so we are looking forward to that discussion and the “practices for improving code” topic in this course. We will be interested to see if we will discuss websites we can use to aid in teaching programming (CS First, Code Combat, Repl, etc).