

## Iona Preparatory School -- Science Department

August 2021

Hi,

I see that you have signed up for the Electronics-Robotics class. I am sending this to remind you that it is essential for you to have a working computer with Internet access in Electronics-Robotics class every day. An iPad or other tablet is not adequate for this course because of the microcontroller programming work we will be doing. Although we will sometimes be working in groups, there will also be many times when you will be working individually so you cannot depend upon using someone else's computer. You need the following:

- A Windows, Mac, or Chromebook computer with a free working USB 2.0 port
- A browser - Chrome is best and Firefox works too. (Explorer and Edge are not supported).

As a summer assignment you should do the following:

1. Go to <http://learn.parallax.com/tutorials/language/blocklyprop/getting-started-blocklyprop-solo>
2. The read the page you land on and click "BlocklyProp Launcher in the upper left.
3. Follow the directions there to download and install the program. There are different versions for PC, Mac, and Chromebook. Also, if you are using a MAC be sure to pick the right version for your operating system (Catalina, High-Sierra, or Mojave). **If your Operating System is Big-Sur, you use the Catalina version.**
4. You will get the hardware on the first day of classes. However, you should download and install the program before school starts.
5. Bring your computer (with that software already installed) to our first meeting, and every class meeting.

Much of our class time is devoted to lab work. You will fall behind very quickly if you do not have a working computer in class every day. Naturally, coming to class unprepared will have a negative impact on your grade.

I am looking forward to working with you in September. During the year we will be working on several different projects. By the end of the course you will have learned some engineering, some electronics, and some computer programming. I think this class is interesting, challenging, and a lot of fun. I hope you will agree with me!

Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation.

God bless.



Br. R.W. Harris