Unit 0: Coding Unplugged

Activity 4: Debugging Relay Race

Intro and Discussion Points:

Computer Scientists work as a team, and must rely on each other to find and point out one another's mistakes. Debugging is not a solitary activity!

Preparation and Materials:

- Large space
- Grid paper program diagrams, laminated
- Small dry erase boards
- Expo markers

Timeframe:

1 class period

Student Learning Targets:

I can work on a team to follow and debug a program.

Project Goals:

Understand that precision and communication are important aspects of computer science.

Lesson Sequence:

- → Establish or review the symbols you will need to draw the grid images (left, right, forward, backward, color in)
- → Divide students into groups of 3-4, determine who will be team captain, and line up relay-race style.
- → Place the image at the other side of the room from each team.
- → The first student will run over to the image and write down the first symbol in the program needed to create that image.
- → The first student then runs back and passes the expo marker the next person in line.
- → The next person in line runs to the image, checks the program that has already been written, then either debugs the program by crossing out an incorrect symbol, **or** adds a new one. Each student can only do ONE action each time, so they cannot cross out AND correct the bug.
- → That student runs back the next person in line and tells them how to fix the bug, or to move on to the next step.
- → When all steps are complete, the captain checks the program one last time and declares it done.
- → Points are awarded as followed: 2 points for being done first AND everything is correct, 1 point for having everything correct, but not completed first, 0 points if there are bugs.
- → Repeat for each image.