

# State-Wide Online Course Offerings

AUGUST 2021

*“The important thing is to never stop questioning.” -Albert Einstein*

## COMPUTER SCIENCE ONLINE - JAVA/PYTHON

## Kansas State School for the Blind is offering a pilot Introduction to Python Computer Science Course tailored for students who are B/VI in partnership with Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools). The TEALS program has a ten-year, proven track record of bringing CS Programs to High Schools by partnering technology industry professionals with classroom educators to team-teach CS.

**DESCRIPTION**: KSSB and TEALS created this course with students who are blind/low vision in mind, working closely with a community of adults who are B/VI. The pilot class will cover variables, outputs, methods loops, if/else statements, and special topics. We are excited to bring this class to students who are B/VI in Kansas.

* **AGE GROUP**: KANSAS 9th-12TH GRADE
* **START DATE:** August 16, 2021
* **WHEN**: Monday through Thursday 3:45-4:30
* **LOCATION**: Zoom
* **INSTRUCTOR**: Microsoft Teals
* **CONTACT**: Kim Rhea at [krhea@kssdb.org](mailto:krhea@kssdb.org)
* **REGISTER by August 12, 2021, at** <http://bit.ly/2SBZDOP>

## DISCOVER PODCASTING AT KSSB - ONLINE

In March of 2020, KSSB teacher Bob Taylor started a [Discover Podcasting Class](https://discover-podcasting.simplecast.com/) for students attending KSSB and or their local school district. To date - the students have interviewed 20 people and were highlighted in an [EdWeek Article](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-students-reflect-on-their-distance-learning-experiences/2020/05), a Perkins [Paths to Technology](https://www.perkinselearning.org/technology/blog/podcast-experience-kssb) blog post, and the “Top Tech Tidbits” [newsletter.](https://www.toptechtidbits.com/tidbits2021/02182021/) There are two options: the Introduction to Podcasting and Live Podcasting. See the descriptions below.

### INTRODUCTION TO PODCASTING

**DESCRIPTION**: Students learn the basics of Podcasting, such as needed technology, appropriate voice, the social nuance of Q&A, developing meaningful questions, and research skills. Students must be willing to work outside of class hours to support the podcasting team. This COURSE is a required PREREQUISITE to the High School KSSB Live Podcasting Course. An interview with the instructor is required before acceptance into the course. ***(LIMITED TO SIX PARTICIPANTS)***.

* **AGE GROUP**: KANSAS Middle School or High School students
* **WHEN**: TUESDAYS 3:45-4:30 \*date/time subject to change
* **LOCATION**: Zoom
* **INSTRUCTOR**: Bob Taylor's Email: [rtaylor@kssdb.org](mailto:rtaylor@kssdb.org)
* **REGISTER by August 12, 2021 at** <https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9>

### LIVE PODCASTING

**DESCRIPTION**: PREREQUISITES REQUIRED (Intro to Podcasting, Must be in High School). Students learn how to and conduct live interviews of guests. Students are required to practice journalism-type skills. Conduct research and know the guest’s work, know your audience to create a balance between quality questions of your guest that aligns with your audience's interest. Students must be prepared for each LIVE INTERVIEW and have the ability to think quickly in response to guest answers. Students must be willing to work outside of class hours to prepare for podcasts. An interview with the instructor is required before acceptance into the course. ***(LIMITED TO SIX STUDENTS)***

* **AGE GROUP**: KANSAS High School students
* **WHEN**: TUESDAYS 4:30 PM \*date/time subject to change
* **LOCATION**: Zoom
* **INSTRUCTOR**: Bob Taylor's Email: [rtaylor@kssdb.org](mailto:rtaylor@kssdb.org)
* **REGISTER by August 12, 2021, at** [**https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9**](https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9)

## SPEECH AND DEBATE AT KSSB - ONLINE

**DESCRIPTION**: Public speaking participants will have the opportunity to speak in small or large groups. Participants will learn how to think and speak on their feet and use emotion effectively when speaking. They will learn how to develop and use informative and persuasive speaking techniques. Students will explore many public speaking forms, such as song lyrics, poetry, humorous prose, serious prose, small skits, or mini debates. This course will allow participants to work collaboratively with other students, from beginner to more advanced speakers. Join this interactive class to meet new people and strengthen friendships. Competitive opportunities with the North Central Association of schools for the Blind or local schools may be available. An interview with the instructor is required before acceptance into the course. ***(LIMITED TO EIGHT STUDENTS)***

* **AGE GROUP**: KANSAS High School students
* **WHEN**: TUESDAYS 3:45-4:30 \*date/time subject to change
* **LOCATION**: Zoom
* **INSTRUCTOR**: Christian Puett [cpuett@kssdb.org](mailto:cpuett@kssdb.org) or call at 913-305-3024.
* To Register <https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9>

## LEARN TO READ BRAILLE MUSIC - ONLINE

KSSB offers students a very unique opportunity - to learn how to read and write braille music. Class size is limited to about five students and the time slots are set when registration is completed. The teacher, Jenny Eichner, works with your school to find a time that will work for everyone. Note: For the first month, it is beneficial for the music teacher, para-professional, and/or TSVI to attend class or to watch the recordings in order to learn the basic notes, rhythms, and structure of braille music to support the student as they progress through the curriculum.

### BRAILLE MUSIC 1 - BEGINNER BRAILLE MUSIC

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a foundational course. Students use music symbols, rhythms, and other basic elements of music. Recognizing and recalling musical notation will be included, as well as an exploration of reading, writing, and playing basic music. In-person, Teacher / Para support is recommended.

* **SCHEDULE**: Varies and established after registration is completed
* **LOCATION**: Zoom with email and phone support
* **CONTACT**: Jenny Eichner at [jeichner@kssdb.org](mailto:jeichner@kssdb.org) for books and supplies
* **REGISTER by September 1, 2021** <https://forms.gle/s7gucqWdJhBGnMsi8>

### BRAILLE MUSIC 2 - INTERMEDIATE BRAILLE MUSIC

**DESCRIPTION:** The Intermediate Braille Music Course provides a continuation of learning in music braille. Students use music symbols, rhythms, and other elements of music. Recognizing and recalling musical notation will be included, as well as an exploration of reading, writing, and playing music. In-person, Teacher / Para support is recommended.

* **SCHEDULE**: Varies and established after registration is completed
* **LOCATION**: Zoom with email and phone support
* **CONTACT**: Jenny Eichner at [jeichner@kssdb.org](mailto:jeichner@kssdb.org) for books and supplies
* **REGISTER by September 1, 2021 at** <https://forms.gle/s7gucqWdJhBGnMsi8>

### BRAILLE MUSIC 3 - ADVANCED BRAILLE MUSIC

**DESCRIPTION:** The Advanced Braille Music Course provides increased experience in music braille. Advanced music symbols and rhythms will be introduced, as well as other essential elements of music. Recognizing and recalling music notation (in Braille and print as needed) is included as well as an exploration of reading, writing, and playing music.

* **SCHEDULE:** Varies and established after registration is completed
* **LOCATION**: Zoom with email and phone support
* **CONTACT:** Jenny Eichner at [jeichner@kssdb.org](mailto:jeichner@kssdb.org) for books and supplies
* **REGISTER by September 1, 2021** <https://forms.gle/s7gucqWdJhBGnMsi8>

## PARAPROFESSIONAL / FAMILY BRAILLE COURSE

This new online offering allows parents and family members to learn the Unified English Braille Code. The Braille Code is uncontracted or contracted.

* **UNCONTRACTED BRAILLE**: assigns each print alphabet letter, number or punctuation mark a braille sign.
* **CONTRACTED BRAILLE**: uses the same uncontracted braille letters, numbers, or punctuation but adds special braille signs to represent common words or groups of letters.

Lessons begin with the basics, uncontracted braille. Once finished with the uncontracted braille course, the participants can move onto contracted braille signs. Each participant can work at their own pace and decide how quickly they move through the lessons. The lessons are paired with videos and hands-on activities to implement braille into your environment/daily use.

* **AUDIENCE:** Family member or educator of a Kansas student who reads braille.
* **WHEN**: To be determined
* **LOCATION:** Zoom
* **INSTRUCTOR**: Christian Puett at [cpuett@kssdb.org](mailto:cpuett@kssdb.org) or call 913-305-3024.
* To Register <https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9>

## COMPUTER APPLICATIONS TRAININGWARE ON-LINE

**DESCRIPTION**: Kansas State School for the Blind is offering online screen reader courses for students in grades 3 to 12. A KSSB instructor will provide instruction to a student but a TSVI, Special Education teacher or Paraprofessional will need to be with the student during the lessons. They will support the student during the lesson and can provide ongoing reinforcement of computer skills between lessons. The team will choose their preferred screen reader (JAWS or NVDA) and the software (Windows or Google Suite). For a list of the possible options, contact the coordinator listed below. Dates and times for this course are arranged between the Instructor and the TSVI/Student team.

* **AGE GROUP**: Kansas Students in Grades 3rd-12th
* **START DATE:** August 16, 2021
* **WHEN**: to be determined
* **LOCATION**: Zoom
* **INSTRUCTOR**: Varies
* **COORDINATOR CONTACT**: Molly Reardon at [mreardon@kssdb.org](mailto:mreardon@kssdb.org)
* **REGISTER by August 12, 2021, at** [**https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9**](https://forms.gle/bLkFDT2nZxJw7szW9)