**HackSPF Frequently Asked Questions**
(If you have a question that wasn’t listed below, please send email to info@eefofspf.org)

**What is a hackathon?**

* Playful, exploratory computer programming event. HackSPF is limited to 4 hour duration.

**Will there be computers provided?**

* Chromebooks will be supplied to participating coders for the event.

**What kind of experience do I have to have?**

* No coding or programming experience is necessary. Most of the training will be for beginners, and if you are advanced you will have ability to explore advanced python programming topics. The core principle of HackSPF is learning!

**Do I have to pay to attend?**

* Yes, the registration fee entitles coders to have access to the complete Codesters online curriculum from any computer to continue coding after HackSPF. Students will have access to fifty-five self-paced project-based lessons teaching coders the core concepts of coding in Python.

**Will there be food provided?**

* Light snacks and refreshments will be available during HackSPF event.

**What should I bring?**

* Bring your willingness to have fun learning to code. No personal devices will be permitted for use.

**How do I apply?**

* Coders should complete the registration form at www.hackspf.org

**Will projects be judged?**

* No, projects will not be judged. Coders will be encouraged to share their projects on the HackSPF event online project gallery.

**Do I need to be a student at SPF to attend?**

* Yes, this is a closed hackathon event limiting participation to 5th through 8th grade students attending Scotch Plains Fanwood schools.

**What is Python and why introduce it?**

* Python is a popular programming language that is used to teach introductory computer science courses (HS and University Level).

**Why teach Python through the Codesters platform?**

* Codesters is a fun online coding platform that uses drag-to-text guides to build Python text-based coding. Since most students have been introduced to computer science through block-based programming (such as Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu>), adopting Codesters approach serves as a bridge between block-based programming and command text programming.

**What is the program outline for HackSPF?**

* We will be facilitating 3 workshops and introducing various concepts from using backgrounds, creating sprites, making actions on click-events through variables and basic parameters.
* Students will then pair up to use what they already learned in workshops to create a project.