

Some people inherited eye colour, others inherited dimples, freckles, and curly hair. But I personally inherited my parents' fondness of math and informatics. Ever since I was a young child, my mother has enrolled me in courses and events like the annual "bebras" informatics contest as well as "the little khwarizmi" course where I learned to rapidly calculate numbers in my head. While other kids played with toys and video games, I found entertainment in using an Abacus.

In seventh grade, I got selected among the top 1-5% gifted students through the mawhiba multiple-cognitive aptitude test to take mawhiba's advanced STEM curriculum. This experience introduced me to interesting topics before they were discussed in our regular classes. And since then, I was always keen on taking every opportunity I got to feed into those interests. I enjoyed playing coding games and learning different ways of solving mathematical equations and I often found it incredibly intriguing how a single problem could be approached in more than one way.

My interest in Computer Science grew even more the day I visited "Scitech" on a school trip, a science and technology museum. While walking through the "amazing technology" hall, I couldn't help but contemplate the impact of technology in our everyday lives and how much we rely on these devices to do all sorts of tasks to make our lives easier. I recognized the importance of these technological innovations in our futures and I aspired to play a part in developing them. On that day, I was determined to learn more about algorithms, programming, and how computers work.

From what I came to understand, communicating with computers is like teaching children. In order to get them to understand us, we need to understand them. Having flexible communication skills and being adaptable are necessary qualities in the computer science field that I mastered as I tutored younger students during my four years in high school. Tutoring has helped me tremendously by giving me the ability to explain various math and science concepts in different styles to suit each of the student's own methods of learning. I also learned how to approach different technical issues while teaching online which played a substantial role in advancing my problem solving skills. This experience also led me to take the deputy head of communications role in our school's Model UN where I guided and assisted admins and delegates before and during the conferences.

I made time to participate in a variety of other activities that helped me become a cooperative team member. I volunteered in raising awareness on topics that aligned with my personal values. From organizing events for kids with special needs to giving advice on mental health in group sessions, I learned to collaborate and build meaningful relationships with people from my community. I conducted research on victimless crimes and ethical hacking which gave me the ability to find answers to my questions and strengthen my critical thinking skills.

Regardless of the obstacles I faced, I never withdrew and I always managed to unravel my mistakes. I believe both my determination and creative approach to situations make me a fast learner, and that taking this computer science course is going to play a significant role in my journey to contribute in developing tools that serve towards a brighter future.