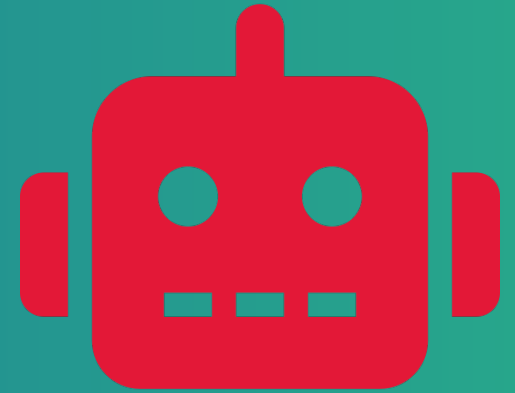


# AI & Your Middle Schooler

*Competency · Responsibility · Getting Ahead*



*Presented by*



**Williamsburg Middle School PTA**

Opening June 2026 · Arlington, VA



# About Code Ninjas Arlington






Your community STEM + AI center — opening June 2026

## Who We Are

- World's largest kids coding franchise — 400+ locations, 4 countries
- Only brand certified by ISTE and CSTA — the gold standard in CS education
- Programs for ages 5–14: coding, STEM, robotics, and AI literacy
- Self-paced belt system — kids earn real credentials
- Lee Harrison Shopping Center, Langston Blvd, Arlington



## Tonight's Agenda

-  Where AI meets your kids today
-  We've been here before — a timeline
-  What AI competency really means
-  Responsible use & guardrails
-  AI Academy — bridging the gap

# Quick Poll — Let's Start Here



**"Has your child used an AI tool in the last 7 days?"**

*ChatGPT · Google Gemini · Snapchat AI · Grammarly · Bing · or similar*

Yes, definitely

🤔 Probably — not totally sure

❌ No, we've restricted it

🙋 I honestly don't know

# AI Is Already in Your Child's World

*It's not coming — it's here right now*



## ChatGPT

Essays, Q&A, homework help



## Google AI

AI Overviews in every search



## Snapchat AI

My AI chatbot — built into the app



## Grammarly

AI writing assistant in every doc



## Gaming AI

NPC behavior, generative worlds



## Khan Academy

Khanmigo AI tutor now built-in


# What's Your Biggest Concern?




**"As a parent, my biggest AI concern for my middle schooler is..."**

 Academic integrity / using AI to cheat

 Privacy and data safety

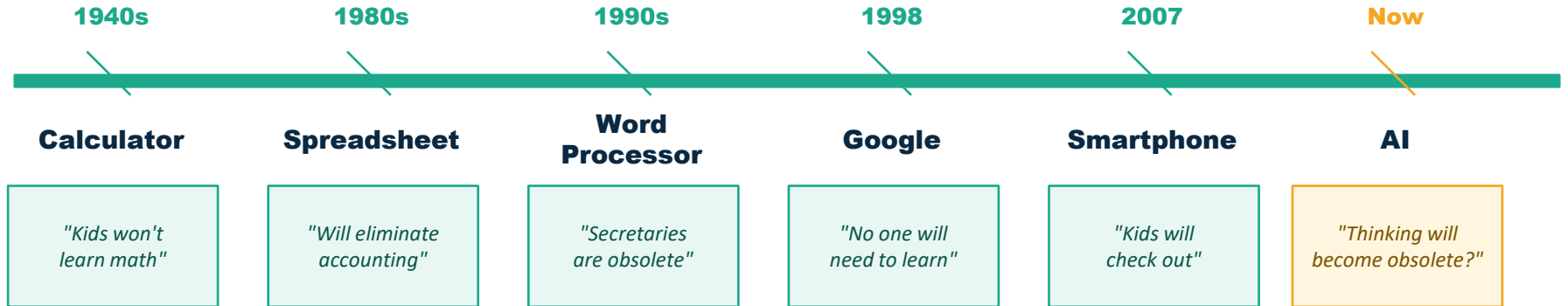
 Losing the ability to think independently

 Falling behind kids who DO know AI well

 I don't know enough about it to even say

# We've Been Here Before

*Every generation has its 'dangerous' new technology*



In every case, those who learned to USE the tool got ahead. Those who avoided it got left behind.

# AI Competency: What It Actually Means

3 pillars every middle schooler needs to develop



## UNDERSTAND

*How AI actually works*

- AI predicts the next word — it doesn't 'know' things
- It's trained on human data, including human biases
- It can be confidently and completely wrong



## USE

*Prompting with intention*

- Specific, detailed prompts get dramatically better results
- Prompt engineering is the new literacy skill
- AI amplifies strong thinkers — it doesn't replace them



## EVALUATE

*Know when to trust it*

- Always verify important facts with a second source
- Spot AI-generated content in the wild
- Use output as a starting point, never a finish line

# The New Literacy: Prompting Well

Same AI — completely different results

## ✗ WEAK PROMPT

*"Write my essay on the Civil War"*

### What the student gets:

- Generic, surface-level content
- May contain factual errors
- No original argument or voice
- Teacher will likely flag it
- Student learned absolutely nothing



## ✓ STRONG PROMPT

*"Help me brainstorm 3 angles for my 8th-grade essay arguing the Civil War was inevitable. Also give me 2 counterarguments I should address."*

### What the student gets:

- Targeted ideas the student still has to evaluate
- The student does the actual thinking and writing
- Builds critical analysis and argumentation skills
- AI as a thinking partner — not a ghostwriter
- Student genuinely learns the content

# The Competency Gap Is Real

*Data every parent in this room needs to know*

**75%**

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of employers say AI fluency will be required for most roles within the next 5 years

**92%**

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of teens use AI tools regularly — but fewer than 1 in 5 can recognize when AI is factually wrong

**#1**

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skill gap flagged by college counselors: critical thinking combined with AI literacy

***The kids who thrive won't be the ones who avoid AI — they'll be the ones who know how to direct it.***

# Responsible AI Use

*Guardrails, not gatekeeping — empowerment through awareness*



## Academic Integrity

- Know your school's AI policy — they vary widely
- Brainstorming with AI ≠ having AI write for you
- Always disclose when your work uses AI assistance
- Ask yourself: 'Did I actually learn this?'



## Privacy & Safety

- Never enter full name, school, or address
- Don't share photos of yourself or friends with AI
- AI chat logs may not be private — treat as public
- No passwords, parent info, or SSN — ever



## Critical Thinking

- AI can be confidently and completely wrong
- Verify important facts with a second source
- AI reflects the biases in its training data
- Question everything — especially if it sounds perfect

# One Thing You Can Do Tonight

*A 10-minute conversation that makes a real difference*



**Ask your child to show you how they use AI for school.**

*"What did you ask it to do for you?"*

*"How did you check if the answer was right?"*







*"What would you have done if AI didn't exist?"*

*"Did your teacher say it was OK to use for this?"*

# Introducing: Code Ninjas AI Academy







*The structured program built for exactly this moment*

## What Kids Actually DO

-  Build their own mini-chatbot — teach it to answer in their own voice
-  Master prompt engineering: get AI to write code, tell stories, explain concepts
-  Generate art, animations & music from simple ideas — exploring how AI 'sees'
-  Learn to spot AI-generated content and evaluate what AI gets wrong
-  Explore AI ethics: bias, privacy, responsible use — real conversations
-  Use AI to debug code and build actual projects with portfolio value



## Why Code Ninjas?

-  ISTE & CSTA certified — only brand with this credential
-  Trained Senseis supervise every session safely
-  Hands-on projects — not lectures or passive screen time
-  Peer learning cohort — kids grow together, not alone
-  Bridges all 3 pillars: Understand + Use + Evaluate
-  Can partner with WMS as enrichment or after-school



ISTE + CSTA Certified

# Why Parents Choose Code Ninjas

*The value that matters to families like yours*

## Credentialed Curriculum



ISTE + CSTA certified — the same bodies that train CS teachers. Not a YouTube playlist or app. A real, validated learning path.

## Safe, Supervised Space



Every session runs with a certified Sensei. Kids explore AI in a structured environment — not alone in their bedroom at midnight.

## Skills That Transfer



Belt progression gives kids visible, earned milestones. Portfolios of real projects. Competency they can show — not just confidence they claim.

## Community + Peers








Kids learn alongside others who are also building skills. That peer cohort creates accountability and genuine excitement about learning.



# Questions?

## Let's talk.

Here's our contact information

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Thank you, Williamsburg Middle School PTA 🙏