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HSLDA Online Academy Scholarship Competition

### An Unforeseen Connection

“God and computers have similar thought processes.”

Wait. What?

I was extremely perplexed after hearing my computer science teacher, Mr. van Essen, address the topic that I had avoided for years. Computers are man-made; therefore, how could they be connected to God in any way? I had no idea how much his answer to my unasked question would influence my outlook on technology.

When starting my computer science course this spring semester, I was a ball of nerves. My programming knowledge was limited, I never had Mr. van Essen for a teacher before, and I didn't even have my textbook! I should not have worried. Monday evenings quickly became a highlight of my week and somehow, unexpectedly, I always seemed to leave class smiling and energized. We worked through code thoroughly, and although understanding concepts was challenging, soon I learned the fundamentals and was able to catch on to new concepts with more ease. Then week eight happened, and my mind was blown.

“God is not a programmer. Instead, programs are created the way they are because God thinks like a program,” Mr. van Essen emphasized. “As a programmer, we don't pretend we are God, we just try to think how God thinks.” After hearing him say this, my eyebrows knitted together in confusion and a question bubbled to the forefront of my mind: How could God, the breather of life, have the thought process of something so lifeless? Fortunately for me, Mr. Van Essen continued and answered my question as if he knew my thoughts. He explained that just

like we create and organize our code into different groups, God did the same with creation. God created a *class* called human, and the human can do many activities, such as walk, breathe, and eat. These activities are all *functions* that are stored in the human class. God created all these functions we perform, both consciously and subconsciously, and placed them into his human class. The puzzle pieces shifting around my brain were starting to form a completed picture. If this was true, not only did God create humans in this manner, but He also created everything in that same manner. Birds, whales, and reptiles would be classes as well, and their functions are specifically tapered towards each one. Because of this course, I discovered God is present and prominent in everything I do – even within an inanimate, man-made creation.