

XRMarin

A Glimpse Into XRMarin's Virtual Reality Academy

By Jacqueline Chin, Sophomore

How would it sound to be fully immersed in a world of parkour? What about a first-person experience in Crossy Roads, a sports game, or the ability to make a burger, all accessible in one place? Best of all, you can rightfully brag that these were your personal creations. At **XR Marin's Virtual Reality Academy**, the options are limitless because you can create your own virtual world. The Virtual Reality Academy, funded by Marin County Office of Education and Marin County Free Library, is a free one-week camp for high schoolers

taught by experienced developers. XRMarin does not expect you to become a professional app developer in one week, but helps you push boundaries and break barriers in the development cycle. The Academy uses the most popular high-end VR systems HTC Vive and Oculus Rift to let students' experience state-of-the-art technology.

Each morning starts off with icebreakers to

disrupt the initial feelings of jitters and butterflies. Instructors then give a few tutorials in the applications used to create interactive virtual worlds. Students are given ample freedom to explore, build, and game (of course) in virtual reality. Students can also try out a variety of published VR apps and games; however, the instructors encourage focused work time with less distractions. One of the major highlights is the instructors are always willing to help students solve the programming and design challenges.

This year, 2018, XRMarin set down its first roots. The Academy met and exceeded many expectations of students and parents. Being a free camp, students of any socioeconomic status can access high-tech equipment and instruction. XRMarin's Virtual Reality Academy has the resources and credibility to open up more courses and opportunities for students. It is vital for our generation to have a taste of modern innovative technologies that can shape our futures.



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