

Dear new SPCS student,

One year ago, I was in your position. I knew I was super excited for what the next few weeks had in store, but I had no idea what to expect. Hopefully I can solve that problem for you.

For starters I can tell you that you're lucky! If you're getting this letter that means that you got an amazing teacher. By the end of this program, Nick won't just be your teacher; he will also be your friend. What to expect from Nick as a teacher is both energy and understanding. You will be able to tell that Nick loves what he is teaching you, and you can't help but love it too. His enthusiasm shines through all of his lectures. Nick will also be incredibly excited about you, the student. Feel free to ask any question you want in his class; he will take the time to answer it. If you find yourself interested in something that comes up in class, tell Nick. He'll help you dive deeper into what you want to learn about. He also understands that two and a half hours sitting in class will drive a person crazy; he'll give you both stretching breaks and meditation breaks so you always feel energized. Also, our class became kind of obsessed with one exercise he showed us. Make sure he shows you how to do a chaturanga.

The next thing to prepare for is class. You're going to learn things you didn't even know were out there to learn. Of course you're going to learn some coding, and some math, and some physics: but don't think that's all you will learn. You will learn how to think critically and logically. You will learn to challenge thoughts and facts you had taken for granted. Sometimes you will question why you are discussing certain topics in an *engineering* class, but just go with it. It makes the class that much more amazing.

All in all, enjoy yourself! You're about to have the time of your life.

Isabella Iaccino SPCS '15