

APPSENT

Jamie and Doran's school was in trouble. Their attendance rates were at an all-time low and the school was in danger of having to suspend after-school activities if rates continued to drop. This meant no swimming for Jamie and no soccer for Doran. The boys sat next to each other in computer science and discussed the problem while coding on their computers.

Jamie sighed, "Well I guess we should focus on computer science instead of that sports scholarship..."

Doran sat up right, "That's it! Well not quite. Why don't we use our coding skills to create an app that can raise school attendance?"

Jamie and Doran got right down to work. They were given permission to pursue this project instead of completing their current one for class. They scheduled a meeting with administration to hear more about the issue.

Ms. Adelson, the principal, explained that many students come in for first period and then leave after lunch. When the teachers take attendance last period, 20% of students are reported absent. Doran questioned Ms. Adelson on why they stayed for lunch and didn't leave after first period.

"The cookies. Kids love those freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. And they stay until they're sold at lunch."

Jamie and Doran went back to their computers and designed an app that used location sharing. By using this system, they could track students and guarantee they were staying on campus. If students stayed on campus for five full days, they would get a QR code for a free cookie on Friday.

Jamie and Doran worked hard on this project, staying late after school, meeting on the weekends, and getting feedback from administration and their computer science teacher. Administration was thrilled about this new attendance tracking



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app called Appsent, and students were excited about free cookies.

At the end of the month, they launched Appsent to the school and 80% of students downloaded it.

After two months, attendance was up 15%. The school decided to let them keep after school activities, and also gave the boys scholarship money for their efforts. Ironically, Doran and Jamie quit swimming and soccer to start a computer science club and help teach other students how to make apps.

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Guiding Questions:

- How did Jamie and Doran use technology for good?
- What do you think of their project?
- What are the benefits of technology? Do the benefits of technology get discussed enough?
- What are your favorite apps/websites that use technology for good?
- What can you create using technology?
- How do you decide when to grant apps and other people access to your location?
- Talk about some of the apps you use where you have enabled location sharing. What are some of the positives and negatives?

Topic: Digital Literacy

Age: Middle and High School