Enclosed is the Putnam County Microcomputer Initiative (PCMI) package being given to each 6th grader in Putnam County. This package includes items to let you experience, explore, and experiment with a single board computer and physical computing.

The *micro:bit* was originally designed and created by the BBC and a consortium of 29 partners to give to school kids in the UK. Castlemakers, thanks to funding from the Putnam County Community Foundation and sponsorship from Microsoft, is building on that experience to put together the package in this pouch.

There's even more information about the *micro:bit* on the web, but here's a few things to get you started:

- You only need 2 things to get the *micro:bit* running: the device and power. A battery pack and batteries are included; a usb cable is also included which will power the *micro:bit*.
- There is a preloaded program on the *micro:bit* which shows you some of the features. There is also an official *micro:bit* handout in your package that explains how to start using the device.
- The *micro:bit* does not need the Internet to operate, but there is a LOT of Internet information about using it. You can start with **http://castlemakers.org/microbit** where we've collected useful links, or at the *micro:bit* official website: **http://microbit.org**
- Creating your own programs with the *micro:bit* is very simple; we recommend using a program editor called MakeCode. Most people use MakeCode with a web browser, but you can also download it as an app on phones, tablets, and Windows 10.
- The *micro:bit* is loaded with sensors (like motion, temperature & light) that can measure and collect information, and be programmed to react to them. It also has a built-in bluetooth radio. There are some great experiments and games that use these sensors, or develop your own!

Items that we've included in your package:

- A *micro:bit,* battery holder and batteries, and a USB cable to connect it to other devices.
- A set of 4 alligator clip jumper wires that can make electrical connections from the *micro:bit* pads/holes to other electronic devices.
- A set of earbuds so you can use the sound capability of the *micro:bit*. Use your jumper wires to connect the earbuds to your *micro:bit!*
- A zippered canvas bag to hold everything and other accessories you might want to use.

We've put together a more complete Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) list on our website at: **http://castlemakers.org/projects/microbit/**.

By providing these easy-to-use devices to the community, we expect that you'll learn more about physical computing and Internet of Things (IoT) devices - the wave of the future! We hope you'll use, share, and work with others using these devices so our community all learns from each other to create new innovations, uses and applications.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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