Lesson 1: Blink!
Students begin to explore the capabilities of physical computing systems with The Digital Dive game, an engaging, live-action activity where students “become” computer parts and transmit commands. They learn to use algorithmic thinking as they prepare to code. Students use block-based coding to create, download, and upload programs to the micro:bit microcontroller. They learn processes and gain skills to debug programs starting with pre-bugged programs. They apply these skills to their own project where they code a blinking message that includes text, images such as emojis, and animation.

Lesson 2: The Ins and Outs
In this lesson, students explore a variety of sensors and actuators to use as inputs and outputs in physical computing projects. Using different materials to transfer electrical signals, such as conductive thread, alligator clips, conductive paint, and copper tape, students create their own input device—a sensor or switch—to interact with a program they develop on the microcontroller. They use these skills in the lesson’s project to design, develop, and program a system to protect safes and secrets.

Lesson 3: Program the Physical World
Within teams, students become innovators and makers. Teams apply their physical computing knowledge and skills as they design and create one of three problem options:

- A wearable safety device someone might use when completing a physical activity outside at night
- An engaging art installation to help improve a community space
- A useful mechanical dispenser for a person or animal who needs assistance to retrieve an object

Teams collaborate and learn that solving authentic problems involves the unit content knowledge, as well as skills from other disciplines, such as communications, mathematics, and science.