Erica Brown

ThursdayAug 31 at 10:29am
Manage Discussion Entry

Compare and contrast

https://sites.google.com/site/mrsclappsclass/ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
http://teacherweb.com/IN/NorthwesternElementarySchool/MrsDill/index.html (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

I found two websites that are the type of sites I'm interested in creating. The first one is Mrs. Dill's Second grade site and on her site she has it broken down into two different parts; the top part is for the parents and students in her classroom and the bottom part is for other teachers to view website she feels are beneficial to her classroom. The second site is Mrs. Clapp's Second Grade classroom as well. This site is classroom based with basically everything you would need to know about her classroom. These two sites have information that parents and students can access. Mrs. Dill's had a lot of graphics and links that were user friendly whereas Mrs. Clapp's has link and a few graphics. Both sites are well organized and put together, they both look very different because one has lots of links and no pictures while the other has graphics and links below. I think that Mrs. Dill's graphics make it more appealing. The links from both sites load quickly and give credit to the author of the page. Mrs. Dill's is more creative because she used graphics and the links work.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Mrs. Clapp's site has lots of links to the classroom expectations and I think that is a great idea. I like that she has a place for parents to check their grades and other items. She also has links to the schools district she works for and links that other teachers such as myself can check out. I think her site could use a little more graphics to draw people to check her sites out.

Mrs. Dill's site has lots of moveable graphics and links. Her website is colorful and catches the viewers eye. The links all work and link to several other websites that would be useful for the viewer. She also has a visit number, which would allow her to see how many people are looking at her site. When looking at her site and trying to find a way to contact her I had to search for her email address. I think she could have made that more visible to the viewer.

Scenarios

1.) If I were a parent of a child in either of these second grade classes and I wanted to know what homework my child had do the next day, I could easily access that information on these website. They also have links that would help my child if he/she is struggling and I could give them some extra

help at home. It would also be beneficial for the students in these classes as well because they can go to the website and practice their spelling words or math skills etc.

2.) Both of these sites would also be beneficial to other teachers such as myself. I could go to these two sites and look at the sites they have available to parents and students to access. It would give other teachers resources and strategies that would be beneficial to them in their second grade classrooms.

 Reply Reply to Comment

•

Collapse SubdiscussionCatherine Seidel

Catherine Seidel

ThursdayAug 31 at 3:49pm

Manage Discussion Entry

I really like the layout of Mrs. Clapp's site - the fixed menus on the side make the site very easy to navigate from one page to the next without having to backtrack, and the minimal use of color makes it easy and pleasing to look at. Although, not all the colors are very complimentary, the bright red links are a little harsh. While I do like the style of the graphics she chose, the site does seem a bit outdated, which is explained by the most recent update date: 2012. The content areas have good contrast between the text and the background so it's very easy to read. Her contact information is also easy to find.

Mrs. Dill's site, for me, is strong where Mrs. Clapp's is weak and vice-versa. The graphics used on the site are more modern with brighter, engaging colors, and they make the site seem more 'fun' to look at. The use of color, however, is less complimentary than Mrs. Clapp's site. I found the bright green to be distracting and it clashes with some of the other design features. There's a lot of different colors used on other pages of the site, and the green menu and starry background make it seem busy, and there are content areas where the contrast is poor. The site is up to date, with working links (though it would be nice if links to external sites opened in new tabs), and her email is available on the navigation bar.

Both sites seem like they could function excellently as resources for both parents and students, with information about the school year as wells as fun stuff like class photo albums.

 Reply Reply to Comment

-

Brenda Adams

ThursdayAug 31 at 8:33pm

Manage Discussion Entry

When I first clicked on Mrs. Clapp's site I first noticed the simple layout. While it is not very "flashy" it would be easy for parents to navigate and find the information they were looking for. The side navigation bar was always present which aided in easy navigation. Some graphics were a bit pixelated but they were arranged on the page in a appealing manner. Background remain the same for all pages but is easy to look. On top of the background, boxes are place for dividers with a white background. Very simple to look and easy to look at. In contrast Mrs. Dill's page had more high quality images but the green title bar was very distracting. Although I understand her use of it as her name is Mrs. "Dill". On the homepage several gifs were used which an an adult I found a little cheesy but when relating it to her audience (her students) it seems fitting. Once you move away from the homepage the star background is continuous. This background sometimes makes the text hard to read, especially has the font decreases. The home navigation buttons remain throughout all pages but images are removed and all navigation become condensed in a green bar at the top of every page. It becomes a little jumbled with the small font size and very little dividing space between each.

 Reply Reply to Comment

-

Joseph Henke

YesterdaySep 1 at 7:32pm

Manage Discussion Entry

My initial impression of Mrs. Dill's site was not positive. I found the visuals and colors to be distracting. I feel that a navigation bar would be beneficial to users so they do not have to search through all of the icons to get to the section of the website that is desired.

I preferred the organization of Mrs. Clapp's website. It has a navigation bar to help users get to different parts of the site more efficiently, and the images are utilized in a more restrained manner than Mrs. Dill's website. I do think the text font and size used for the site could have been improved to make it easier to read, and improve the visual appeal of the webpage.

 Reply Reply to Comment

-

Collapse SubdiscussionElizabeth Daugherty

Elizabeth Daugherty

YesterdaySep 1 at 7:44pm

Manage Discussion Entry

I liked Mrs. Clapp's site more than I liked Mrs. Dill's site. Mrs. Clapp's site was less busy and neutral in color. I liked that it was easy to navigate and had easy links that gave quick access to areas a user would be looking for. There were pictures and plenty of information at easy access for parents and students. Something I really liked was that she had an area set up for her students to easily access. There are bolded headlines for students to quickly find what they're looking for. This site isn't too flashy or busy- but direct and easy to navigate.

Mrs. Dill's site was bright and flashy- but I think it does a disservice to the user. When there is that much stimulation on a webpage, it seems that it's harder to find what you're looking for. I like that she uses a lot of color, but a lot of the graphics are just too much. I do like that there is a visit number tracker at the bottom of the site so Mrs. Dill can keep track of how much traffic her site pulls in.

Both sites offer great things to parents, students and other teachers. I liked seeing some of the ideas they both had to offer. As I'm planning my website, I will definitely keep in mind that when it comes to making my site user friendly, less may be more.