Website Evaluation Report

Introduction

For my project, I intend on creating a website for student and parent use. I would like to be able to provide students and parents clear guidelines and expectations for class assignments and behaviors. I would also like to provide links to assignments and useful websites for the classroom. Both of the website I reviewed provided ideas for organization and guidance on strengths and weaknesses of the websites.

Websites Reviewed

Mrs. Napolitano's American History Website
- URL-www1.mahapc.K12.ny.us/mms/teachers/napolitanol/default.htm

Mrs. Leininger's History Page
- URL-leininger.weebly.com

Compare and Contrast

Both sites are for student and parent use. Mrs. Nepolitano and Mrs. Leininger provide links for resources useful to the class. Mrs. Nepalitano has a link for the History Channel and Mrs. Leininger links ushistory.org for student use and many others. While both sites are designed to provide inforation to students and parents, Mrs. Leininger's is much more pleasing to the eye. Mrs. Nepolitano's wesite uses bright blue and red font on a white background which is somewhat jarring. There are some spelling errors and a few small errors like the underlining extending beyond the link. Mrs. Leininger used pictures in the background title with soothing corresponding colors (off white with charcoal grey).

Strengths and Weaknesses

Both have tabs that are easily identifiable and home buttons available to navigate the websites. Mrs. Napolitano does provide many useful links, which is a great resource for students. The tabs are very clear: course description, homework, notes, projects. Students can easily find information. The teacher appears to have coded the page herself, so it can be tailored to her specific class needs. There are, however, some weaknesses. There is no contact information for the teacher. Some of the links to other webpages are no longer available (the website had not been updated since 2016). The website is very functional, but not overly inviting to look at.

Mrs. Leininger's site has the better looking design. There are more pleasing colors and graphics. The information is useful to the class, clearly labeled, including rubrics textbook links and contact information. It is easily navigated and would provide students and parents with necessary materials for the class. One of the weaknesses of the site is that the class must click under resources which then take the individual to another site, where the class information is located. It would be more easily navigated if the student or parent only had to click the class and see the various resources available by unit rather than going to yet another page, then finding the information.

Scenarios

Scenario 1

During a job interview for a new teaching position, Mrs. Leininger could easily use her website as an example of what she has done as a teacher. Her website included lesson materials and easily downloaded projects, worksheets, and quizzes she used in her classroom. The website included rubrics for assignments exemplifying her use of differentiation, higher order thinking skills and multiple media uses. The website would show her professionalism and adept usage of technology in her classroom.

Scenario 2

Mrs. Leininger would be able to use her website during parent-teacher meetings. The website is open to anyone. There are no student passwords required for the parent to access the information. Parents would be able to view what students should be working on for her class. The teacher included calendars for class due dates, review materials (links to Kahoot), student resources (several online texts) and many more items like rubrics and printable worksheets. Parents visiting the website would have total access to her classroom and expectations. Contact information is readily available.   As a teacher, this is an incredibly useful tool for parent-teacher communication.

Peer Discussion

Jennifer, I thought you did a great job of reviewing these websites. Misspellings and formatting errors can be painful to see on a website, so I appreciate you pointing that out. I think an aesthetically pleasing website is very important, but correct grammar and spelling is even more important! Additionally, the note about easy usability (not being led to an alternate website) is key to keep a user engaged on a page. Finally, your scenarios seem very realistic and likely for a user of these pages.

Hey Jennifer!

I really like the idea of creating a classroom website that encompasses all you mentioned. It can be very helpful for both students and teachers. I was not able to access your first website, but I completely agree that Mrs. Leininger's website is visually pleasing. It is a great page with a wide variety of resources!
Will you website be broken up like Mrs.Leinger's by class? Will it include paper resources scanned to be accessed digitally ?

I also agree that Scenario #2 is a great practical and realistic situation that the website could be utilized for! The transparency the students and the parents are able to see and access can be a very proactive in the communication process. It can help reduce the number of emails, questions and parent contacts throughout the school year.