I looked at many different websites for this task and selected the following two examples. First, I chose [http://earhart.goddardusd.com/49583\_3 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://earhart.goddardusd.com/49583_3), which was created by Melissa Haney. She is a classroom teacher and this site is a place where students and parents can go to get help, information, and classroom downloads.The second webpage I chose to evaluate was created by Ms. Zinder. The web address is:  [http://teacherweb.com/IL/PioneerElementarySchool/MrsZidersFirstGrade/index.aspx (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://teacherweb.com/IL/PioneerElementarySchool/MrsZidersFirstGrade/index.aspx). This website also is a place where parents can go to get information. This webpage does not offer as much support to the actual students as the Ms. Haney’s site. Both sites are similar because they are designed to be a place where users can get information about the classrooms. They contain calendar, contact information, and other general information about the classroom.

There are also differences between the two webpages. Ms. Haney’s site is the easier to read webpage of the two examples. It has a white background and black text. Mrs. Zinder’s webpage is more visually distracting. The page has a paw print background which I believe draws the user’s eye away from the content.

Mrs. Haney’s site uses fancier font than Ms. Zinder’s, but the main page on Zinder’s site has a better natural flow. All of the subpages are accessible through a 3x9 grid of choices. Haney’s site is not set up in a grid and some of the links are more difficult to find. For example, her students and teachers sections are near the center bottom, but the calendar is on the far right column.

Use Case #1 -  [http://earhart.goddardusd.com/49583\_3 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://earhart.goddardusd.com/49583_3" \t "_blank) – Ms. Haney’s webpage

            This website could be used by either parents or students. For this use case I am going to explain a scenario in which a student may attempt to obtain information from Ms. Haney’s classroom site.

A student has been assigned a project asking him to write a personal narrative. Perhaps this student had to go to the nurse during the majority of the lesson in which the teacher explained how to start this type of writing process. Now, this student is at home and does not know how to begin. Then, he remembers his teacher told the class they could access extra help and tutorials on her classroom webpage. So, the student goes to the link listed above, scrolls down on the main page, clicks “Just for Kids,” clicks “Writing,” and selects the first video about writing a personal narrative. After viewing this video, and possibly any others that are related to the topic, the student now feels comfortable with the initial writing process for personal narratives and can begin the assignment. Had the teacher not provided online tutorials, the student could have gotten frustrated at home and given up on the task.

Use Case #2 - [http://teacherweb.com/IL/PioneerElementarySchool/MrsZidersFirstGrade/index.aspx (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://teacherweb.com/IL/PioneerElementarySchool/MrsZidersFirstGrade/index.aspx) - Ms. Zinder’s webpage

            In my opinion, this webpage appears to be set up for parents to access, and other teachers. For this use case I will describe a situation in which a parent might access the classroom site.

            A parent has decided they would like to become more involved in the school community and would like to volunteer at her child’s school in some capacity. She decides to access the classroom website to get Ms. Zinder’s email address. Upon accessing the site, she notices there is a link for “Parent Volunteers.” So, she clicks on the link and finds many different options that might help her be more involved at the school. The parent loves to read and finds the section that is labeled “Mystery Readers.” She preceeds to click on this link and discovers the teacher has mystery readers surprise the class and read a story to them. The parent immediately decides she wants to be a part of this program. She scrolls farther down and sees an updated schedule of available dates, finds a few that work with her schedule, and emails the teacher to be part of this volunteer program.

Peer Response 1: Mrs. Haney's site has more modern feel to with quality up-to-date images,graphics and font styles.  The floating overlay also added to the modern look.  Overall the home page was very eye appealing.  The same background and floating overlay continue for all subpages.  Once you are in the subpages, a home navigation button is present but the only option is to return to the main page. Mrs. Zider's page has a paw print background that makes the overall site hard on the eye.  All subpages are noted with a image with transparent background which help the site look more professional.  Once in the subpages, the navigation bar moved the a colored bar at the top of each page, images are removed, font are small with dividing space between.  This must have been a standard when this page was first developed as I have seen several examples of this style of home navigation.

Peer Response 2: After spending a few minutes investigating Ms. Haney's website, I read your review about this site. Although I agree that her webpage offers a great amount of support for the students, I actually found the homepage to be quite distracting when I first clicked the link. I do not appreciate the very large image that continues to rotate between a few images - I found this very distracting and takes away from the user being able to navigate the site easily. I also began to contemplate how this may affect individuals with certain disabilities as it flashes bright colors and continues to quickly rotate between images. I also thought that her inspirational quotes below it were unnecessary "fluff" that prevented users from accessing her links right away. I do appreciate her interactive calendar which allows parents to click on any date and see her lesson plans for that date. However, I felt that the navigation back to the homepage once you were in one of her subpages was not very easy and I thought that the parent/teacher contact link was buried in the bottom of her homepage when parents may just be looking for this link - which would make this ineffective for quick location.

After reviewing Mrs. Zider's page, I do not appreciate the majority of the design choices that she made in designing her webpage. First, the background image is VERY distracting and makes it challenging to read a significant amount of the text. Secondly, there appeared to be absolutely zero organization to the images/links to the different pages that she presented in that grid format. If it was alphabetical, maybe I would have appreciated it more - but, as it is, I think it would take the user a minute or two to simply read through all of those links and find the one they were looking for. I think she would have benefited much more by having a simple navigation bar either along the top horizontally or along either side vertically that had an alphabetical list of all of the links to the different pages. I realize that this may not be as "aesthetically pleasing" to some people because they would not see those cute pictures she presented with each link, but, this would actually make for an intuitive navigation through the website and would allow users to quickly find what they are looking for. In my opinion, a user interaction with a website should be as efficient as possible with as few distractions as is possible so that the user can find what they are looking for with ease.

Peer Response 3: I looked at both website.  The 1st website you provide was more visually appealing and less clustered than website 2nd.  I like the 1st website had content had content for both students and parents to access.  Website 2 seemed more for the parents use.

The 1st website I felt was hard to navigate and the content was buried to many levels deep.  The 2nd website I felt had a very distracting background and made the website less likable.  Overall two good websites to reference to figure what you want in your own website.