

Weebly: <https://dwilson110.weebly.com/>

English Landing: <https://englishlanding.parkhill.k12.mo.us/>

Compare and contrast the sites:

Compare:

Both sites use high contrast text and background colors, allowing the information to stand out and be easily read on the computer. Both sites also use a navigation toolbar at the top, which is always available throughout use of the site. This allows the user to easily access the homepage or other pages. Each site also features a space for contact information, which is critical for education as parents often need this information to reach a teacher.

Contrast:

The English Landing site is much more organized. Each tab or page has a clear purpose with detailed information. The Weebly site contains some tabs that are empty or do not lead to a clear destination. This is off putting as a user. The homepage of the EL site is more functional. As the user enters the homepage, they are immediately greeted with important information, rather than having to search for it. The navigation toolbar is saved for optional information that is clear and important, but may not be needed by all. The purpose of multimedia use is clear on the EL site. While the Weebly site also utilizes multimedia features, the use is less clear and immediately links to a video. The user may not understand whether they need to view this or not. The EL website is recently updated, while the Weebly site appears to have features that are out-of-date. This makes parents and students feel like the site is less than important and not an important resource for information.

Identification of the strengths and weaknesses:

Weebly

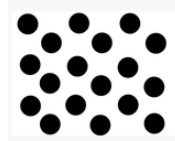
- **Strengths:**

The navigation bar is clear and easy to use and always available. The colors are inviting for an elementary setting as they are bright and attention-grabbing.

- **Weaknesses:**

Many different fonts and text sizes are used on the homepage. This causes the page to feel disorganized or jumbled. Some tabs in the navigation bar lead to empty destinations. An example is "Class Info". This leads to a blank screen when clicked. Multimedia elements do not have a

clear purpose. A space titled “Favorite Videos” is in the navigation bar, but when clicked it leads to various video links.



Welcome to Ms. Wilson's 2nd Grade Class Website!

The objective for this school year to make it your best yet! We will use technology like you have never used it before. Get ready for a fun and exciting year in second grade!

STAY CONNECTED WITH ME

Ms. Wilson's website is not managed by VBCPS. I will update frequently to keep you in the know of what is going on in Room 11. Here you can find information on my weebly announcements, important dates, helpful websites for parents and students, pictures, videos, and a little bit about me. Please click on the links above to stay CONNECTED with Room 11! :)

English Landing

- **Strengths:**

The navigation bar is clear and easy to use. Each click leads to a clear destination and important information appears to be available within two layers. The site is visually appealing and very well organized. Each section is clearly defined. The navigation bar is always available no matter which page you're on. The text and background appear in high contrast, which is easy to read and allows information to stand out. On the homepage, there are pictures of students. The purpose is clear, as this is an elementary school site. “News” is available from the home page which allows users to have quick access to new information and an organized calendar is available. Important information that changes frequently is also on the home page. Users do not have to click much to get the information they need. By clicking “About Our School” or “Our People,” users are able to access contact information easily and read biographies, which make the site feel unbiased, trustworthy, and informed. “Parent Resources” makes navigation quick and easy for these users.

- **Weaknesses:**

- There are many links or sections under each area of the navigation bar. It could be challenging to find what you're looking for.

Use Cases

1. Parents

Parents are one of the most important potential users of my site. They will be able to view the website before the school year begins in an effort to proactively learn about their child's upcoming year, learn about their child's teacher, and be informed of expectations. They will be able to click “Contact Me” to be directed to my email address and work phone number and “Our Weekly Learning” to view specific information about the standards and content that

students learned that week in each subject area. Parents can also click “Important Events” to view upcoming events that pertain to their child’s learning.

2. Students

Students are the other essential user of my site. Students will be able to use my site both in the classroom and at home. Students are able to view the site before the school year to learn about their teacher and classroom. They can access a “Home Learning” (this is our term for “homework”), which will provide students with information, links to other websites, and suggestions for completing their assignments. Students will be able to use the site to access appropriate sites for research. We study “digital citizenship” heavily in an effort to teach students how to be safe online. By providing links to safe search engines on my site, I can help them achieve this.

Discussion Board Replies

Sarah Jurchen

Friday Mar 29 at 11:58pm

Hi Megan!

I enjoyed taking a look at the two websites you reviewed.

The English Landing website is full of information and well organized. The text weight and spacing is easy on the eyes and the headings make sense. It has a cohesive, professional look to it. Having the Headlines, Calendar and Quick Links on the Home page is great, because it directs users to time-sensitive information. I did notice that under OUR PEOPLE > Staff Directory, there are 78 staff member listed, each with a “More...” button that drops down additional contact information, bios, blogs, etc. Many staff members have no additional information listed, but the button is still visible. It would be less confusing if the “More...” button only displayed if there were more information to view. Also, some of the blog sites listed there are current, but some are quite outdated. If I were a new parent to the school and looking at the Staff Directory page, I would expect that blog sites listed with a teacher’s contact information would be the same sites listed in the ABOUT OUR SCHOOL > Accessing Classroom NEWS.

The Weebly site is warm with appropriate and engaging images, but I agree that the variance in font type, size and color on the homepage is jarring. Some of the pages are lacking information, for example, CLASS INFO on the tool bar has no content, and 2NDGRADE WITH MS. WILSON > ANNOUNCEMENTS & IMPORTANT DATES contains a few headings and images, but lists no actual Announcements or Important Dates. It has a link to the school’s homepage, not a calendar or news.

Looking at these two sites as a potential user has helped me appreciate all the thought and maintenance that goes into a quality website. Thanks for sharing!