

Final Project Design Document

Purpose:

The goals of my website are to connect parents to my fifth-grade classroom. I will use it as a place to find newsletter types of information, dates of upcoming events, and current classroom curriculums being taught. I will also include links to relevant learning videos and activities that go along with our math, social studies, and science curriculum.

Needs Assessment:

I currently use a paper version of a class newsletter, as well as Class Dojo, to communicate with parents. What parents are reporting is that many students are not bringing home the papers that are being sent, and they either don't have a device that will install an app for Class Dojo, or they simply don't have room to do it. Having a website that they could go to as needed would alleviate both of those problems.

Audience:

The audience of my website will be parents and guardians of my fifth-grade students. Most of them have internet access, according to a beginning of the year survey, but not necessarily access to downloading an app such as Class Dojo or Remind. They are parents and guardians that work many non-traditional shifts and are gone or sleeping when students are at home. Having a website will allow them the freedom to check in when it is convenient, not requiring them to dig through their child's bookbag.

Content/Subject and its fit with website goals:

The content listed will be newsletter information, homework help, math links, social studies links, and science links. These items all meet the goals of the website because they are areas that parents would be wondering about or asking questions about if they were able to meet with me each day. The subject area links will be especially helpful for students that are working on review or homework with their parent. I will also include a link to the Akron Public Schools website.

Presentation of information:

Information will be organized by clicking different tiles. There will be a class picture using our class animal (frog) or a picture of our school on the homepage of the site. (I'm not sure about posting a class photo even though they have a media release.) The homepage will be an identifier, so the parents know right away that they are at the right place. Each of the different tiles will have a category name that will take them to that page of the website. Those pages will contain a picture or description, or a list of active links to the current material.

Rationale for organization:

I will present the information by connecting active links to each category for most of them. For example, if the category is “Math Links,” it would include active links to lessons I have created videos for and posted to YouTube, or copies of class notes that were taken on the smartboard. The newsletter information page will give a date (ex: Week of 9/17-9/) that works as a link. The parent will click on it and a Google Doc will open that shows the events and schedule for the week.

Media, acquisition or development, and rationale for using:

The media that I will likely use is YouTube as a platform for presenting videos that I have recorded, and simple links to websites that we use in class. These examples are prodigygame.com, and mobymax.com. I will use those because they are user-friendly, and familiar to the students and parents. (This website audience is for parents, but students will be able to navigate it with or for them, and parents will be able to open links for the students to use as they work together.

Color scheme and rationale:

I will use royal blue for the background with gold tiles. Those are the colors of our school, as well as the main colors for our district website.

Outline of website organization:

