Sarah Majors

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ISLT 7360 Introduction to Web Development

Websites Reviewed:

http://www.yourwcs.com/~kziegenbein@yourwcs.com/middle-school-math

http://mrscrenshawmath.blogspot.com/

Compare and Contrast

My final Project is going to be a website for my math students and parents. I want to provide information about me, my classes, where to go if you need help and some fun games for practice. I chose to review math teacher's websites offering the same service for their students. Both websites I reviewed offered information about the teacher, resources for help and information about homework. These websites were very different in their presentation. Yourwcs has a lot cleaner and more organized look, however the website does not list contact information. Mrscrenshawmath had a bit more cluttered layout. It was set up in three columns but on the mobile site you lose two of the columns, one of which contains all of the contact information.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Yourwcs

This website has a very clean look and feel. It has a simple white background with black text. The navigation bar is on the left side and remains in the same place when you navigate to other pages on the desktop website. All pages have a clear and appropriate title in the title bar. The photos load quickly on each page. All links are up to date and functional.

The main weakness of this website is that if you click any external link it takes you away from the yourcws website. It would be better to have these pages open in a new window so users could easily navigate back to the website. Yourwcs did not have any contact information on the website, you would have to use the links to the main school website to gain that information. This could be frustrating to parents and students needing quick answers or help. On the mobile website the navigation links were at the very bottom of the screen making it more difficult to travel between pages. There were not any citations on the photos which could mean copyright infringement.

Mrscrenshawmath

Mrscrenshawmath has clear navigation at the top of the website. The background is orange but all of the text boxes are white with easily readable text. All contact information is on every page that you navigate to since it is in the fixed left column of the desktop website. All material on the website includes appropriate citations.

The main weakness of this website is that if you click any external link it takes you away from the yourcws website. It would be better to have these pages open in a new window so users could easily

navigate back to the website. This website is set up in a three column format.   The middle column contains the information contained in each tab. The left and right columns contain useful information, such as contact information, schedule, favorite links, etc.   This leads to a lot of information on each page, it is not disorganized but cluttered looking.   The mobile site only has the center column of data so all contact information is not available when using a mobile device. Pages all say Mrs Crenshaw's 6th Grade Math Website in the title bar instead of the page you are actually on. The mobile site only has the center column of data so all contact information is not available when using a mobile device.

Use Cases

Both of these websites are created to assist students in the teacher's classroom. If a student was absent they could view the homework calendar to find out what they missed. If a student was struggling with a homework problem they could find videos to help them.

Additionally, these websites were created to assist parents when they have questions about what is going on in the classroom or their child needs help. Information about class and grading policies were on both websites. Parents could use the links and resources to help brush up on their math skills to better assist their child at home with any questions.

Comments

Dana Greco

Great review!

I took a look at both of the websites and I agree with your explanations on their individual strengths and weaknesses. I really do like the design, colors fonts within Mrscrenshawmath, but after really looking at the layout, especially the homepage it definitely was overwhelming, even for a teacher so I can imagine parents using the site would feel the same way. It truly was very organized with their headings and tabs, but it looks like alot of information at once and so many boxes in each column. It would definite benefit parents more and they would be more likely to use it if that didn't feel overwhelmed with information when first entering the site.

In regards to Yourwcs, at first impression I felt the homepage was very welcoming and not overwhelming in the least bit. I thought the layout was really good and easy to navigate through, I like how they had specific tabs at the top but then a little down the page had a list of quick links, for some of the everyday things parents may be looking to find out. I do agree on the fact that it could definitely be frustrating to be navigated from the main site when clicking on links.

Joshua Lang

Great job, Sarah! I never thought to look at the mobile site and look for the limitations, differences, or ease of navigation you would notice. I will try to remember to include that into future evaluations of sites. I suppose its another aspect to consider while we learn about creating our own sites. Thank you again, because I would not have never thought yo look into this aspect.

Mary Ottis

Great job!

I looked at both websites as well. I want to do a classroom website as well for my finished project.

I agree, I thought the Yourwcs website was very clean looking. This did not seem overwhelming to me. It was very easy to navigate.

Mrscrenshawmath seemed overstimulating with the orange/white. I also thought it had a lot of information.

I never thought about checking on a mobile device (good thinking)! I know that many families probably do use mobile devices and that will be something to check out and keep in mind!

Tamara Machens

Two interesting sites. It seems that Mrs. Crenshaw's page is lopsided in its content. The small side menus have a lot of content, but the links that do bring up a subpage don't contain much information. Maybe the information of the sides should really be tabs? I also find it annoying that several of her links take you to someone else's website for the information instead of making it a subpage.

Ms. Z's website is very basic and doesn't seem to have much content.   It looks like a page that the teacher had to create as part of the school or district website. So, all of the tabs at the top take you to district pages. She does have a purpose for each of her links and resources which will make students and parents more likely to use those links. Great job!