

WVDE Family Engagement

Focusing on Family Engagement in Learning Using Your School's Website

Classroom Website Use for Teachers

- Introduce yourself with a brief bio and share something unique, interesting or funny about you
- Identify the purpose for your classroom website (what types of information do you want to share with your families and how frequently would you like to update your website)
- Let families know you'll share classroom learning updates and how often you will update
- Organize classroom website so no more than 3 clicks to desired resource
- Share at home activities that promote learning for your grade level/subject area
- Share with families your purpose and expectations for the use of the classroom website
- Personalize the classroom website with photographs of students, student work, and shout-outs to celebrate the work students and their families have done (*Obtain photo permission from your students' families*)
- Align posted material/information with school and classroom goals
- Create videos of lessons, problem solving examples, directions, summer practice, well wishes, and more to post on your website
- Create a folder to store messages/materials/information to post at later dates
- Use Office 365 Forms to gain parent input

School Leaders: Setting the Stage

- Support teachers by providing them with electronic versions (PDFs) of school information and updates that they can post on the classroom website
- Work with staff to establish guidelines/norms for school website
- Designate reviewers (parent volunteers) to check spelling and grammatical errors on website
- Create shared folder for teachers to include updates and changes needed on website (if all teachers do not have permission to make changes)

- Periodically check website for outdated material/information and alignment with school and classroom goals
- Communicate the importance of school and home communication in whole school communications
- Encourage families to regularly view class websites as they provide tools for learning that families can implement at home
- Encourage all staff to have their pages started before “Back to School Night.”
- Create update timelines, share with all staff, and send staff [email reminders](#) for updates
- Organize website for easy access; no more than 3 clicks to desired resource (Quick Links, Events, Staff Contacts, and more)
- Survey parents for input on use and content on website
- Consider [website accessibility](#)
- Use Office 365 Forms to have parents volunteer, register for trainings and events (*place form link within event notice.*)

Bibliography

- Barron, C. (2018). *Joining Together to Create a Bold Vision for Next Generation Family Engagement*. New York: Global Family Research Project.
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- Prince, B., & Shultz, K. (n.d.). *Communicating with Families Using Classroom Websites*. Retrieved from Flamboyant Foundation: <http://s28742.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Communication-on-Class-Websites.pdf>