

# Creating a Teacher Website

When teaching in online environments, utilizing a teacher website may be helpful for establishing an online presence with students, families, and stakeholders. A teacher website can serve as a central hub for creating community and supporting classroom-to-home communication. Using a teacher website, either independently or in conjunction with a Learning Management System (LMS), allows a teacher to distribute class-specific information, share resources, collect feedback, create connections with students, and communicate with families and stakeholders.

1. When visiting a teacher's website, what content do I find to be most relevant to students, families, and stakeholders?
2. What types of important information and/or instructional needs do I need to communicate with my students, families, and stakeholders?
3. What functions are available within websites that could support communication and instructional opportunities with students, families, and stakeholders?



to Consider

A teacher website can be beneficial for blended and online learning. A teacher website can provide information and resources, collect feedback, create connections, and support communication. Teachers can use a website to post instructional materials, share classroom procedures, add links to official school or district webpages, and announce information. A teacher's website can be used independently or in conjunction with a Learning Management System.

In utilizing a website, teachers can support academic needs, engage students, and promote a strong connection between school and home. It can be an effective medium to help students, parents, and stakeholders keep up with all things class-related, like course content, assignment requirements, and class activities. Teachers might consider adding to a website educational resources, class calendars, course expectations, class newsletters, teacher blogs, contact information, and extracurricular calendars and links. A website supports relationships and trust between teachers, students, parents, and stakeholders, which can lead to strengthened and increased engagement and involvement.

Tools like Weebly, Wix, and Google Sites make it possible for teachers to set up a website without any computer coding or design skills. All three tools have an array of free features and functions that allow teachers to create professional-looking websites.

When designing a teacher website, it is important to keep it perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust. A teacher website should be perceivable, indicating that content must be viewable and available. For example, all students, not just special population students, will benefit from having good color contrast between background and content to ensure readability. Incorporating even a small component of Universal Design for Learning can help promote accessibility. A teacher website should be operable and understandable, meaning that students and parents can access the content on any device such as a PC or tablet, and the provided information should be plain and clear to comprehend. A teacher website should be robust, indicating that resources should be useful and compatible with other technologies. Directly embedding external resources or hyperlinks to useful content can help make the content easier to find and access. Also, it is important to consider students' and families' specific needs that might impact their utilization of the website such as providing translation apps for non-native speakers.

A teacher website should be organized, easy to navigate, and constantly updated for students, families, and stakeholders. Such a site can be a great benefit for students, families, and other stakeholders.

## KEY Elements