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Assignment #4

### ***Classroom Homepages***

Classroom Homepages are becoming more common amongst today's teachers. The main goal of a homepage is to enhance instruction while increasing communication with students and their parents. These homepages can consist of a variety of classroom activities. Teachers may choose to publish homework assignments, weekly newsletters, classroom rules and useful links for students, just to name a few. Homepages are useful resources for students, other teachers and parents.

According to Leu & Leu, the development of a homepages helps students in four ways:

1. Helps your students learn
2. Helps others including parents and other classrooms
3. Forges a tighter link between home and school
4. Helps the teaching profession

Classroom Homepages assist students in learning from their teacher, as well as other students. Teachers may choose to publish students' work on their homepages, which can be highly motivating to students. They also have access to vital classroom information such as upcoming assignment deadlines. Homepages are also a great place for teachers to provide access to motivating educational sites for students to look at in their free time,

whether that occurs at home or in school. By teacher's previewing these sites, parents can feel confident that their children are viewing safe and accurate information. With technology becoming more readily available to students, classroom activities can be accessed at home, which closes the gap between school and home. Teachers should be conscious of the fact that not all families have access to the Internet at home, although they may gain access from their local library or community center. Parents can view their child's work online or send an e-mail to the classroom teacher when they have a question about their child. In addition to classroom homepages acting as a resource for others, it also helps to project the teacher as a true professional. A teacher's homepage is a reflection of the technological skills that each teacher possesses.

The development of classroom homepages has impacted the education process in two major ways: increasing communication between students, teachers and parents and providing and sharing resources with students and other teachers. Homepages allow teachers to communicate with students and parents in new ways. Homepages should be designed to be grade appropriate. Homepages for younger students may focus more on student's work and parent information, while homepages for high grades levels may focus on specific lessons and content resources. Not only do homepages provide a variety of new resources to the student, the classroom teacher benefits as well. Teachers can keep their lesson in an organized fashion in

order for them to easily access them and other teachers to use and possibly reuse from year to year. Also, teachers can share ideas and collaborate on lessons with other teachers via their homepages.

Developing a homepage is easy to do. There are a multitude of tutorials available to assist teachers with this process. Teachers such as Mrs. Bugucki's have created their own classroom homepages. Check out her website at <http://64.226.123.23/aemes/homepage.htm>. This site and others like [Mrs. Lowe's 4th Grade Homepage](#) and [Mrs. Schilb's Looping Learning Website](#) host the following essential items, which should be incorporated in classroom homepages including:

- List of homework assignments
- Calendar of events
- Information for Parents
- Resource links for kids
- Calendar of events
- Students work
- Teacher resources
- Contact information/e-mail address for teacher

It is important for the teacher to remember to make sure to critically evaluate their homepages. Be sure to provide information in an organized manner. Since students will be visiting your site, it is so important for homepages to be easy to navigate. Depending on the grade level, it may be beneficial for teachers to include a search tool directly on your homepage. Sites may also include a discussion board or weblog for teachers and parents to interact as well as a way for teachers and parents to provide feedback on

the site. Sites should always include additional resources for students at all grade levels.

Creating a classroom homepage is easy to do. There are many sites that assist teachers with creating and designing classroom homepages. Kimberly S. Roempler's article ["Designing a Classroom Web Page"](#) lists several tips for teachers looking to create their own homepage. Before starting to create your site, teachers should set goals for their homepage, the major goal being to improve communication between parent, students and teachers. Classrooms homepages are an invaluable addition to the classroom.

## *Works Cited*

Leu, D. & Leu D. "Teaching with the Internet K-12: New Literacies for New Times" Christopher-Gordon Publishers. 2004

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