

OCT. 2013

EDTECH TIPS

Reaching Out

MS. RHEMS' CLASS

HOME SUBJECTS CLASS NEWS

WELCOME!

CLASSROOM WEBSITES

WEEBLY.COM

CREATE IT SHARE IT!

Create and host a free classroom website with Weebly.com.

WEEBLY

Establish open lines of communication with your parents and students by creating a classroom website.

Classroom websites allow parents to have easy access to curriculum and classroom resources that they can use to support classroom instruction at home.

Use your website in your classroom to direct students to practice sites and creation tools. Post classwork and homework assignments for students. Provide easy access to enrichment and remediation materials for students.

Once you have created the framework for your website, you can gradually add resources to each subject area and

section. By next year, you will have a fully populated website ready to be refined.

Why Weebly? We like Weebly because of its easy drag-and-drop what-you-see-is-what-you-get (WYSIWYG) interface. Weebly's ready-made templates are designed well and provide a polished and professional look to your website. Oftentimes, mapping a website can be cumbersome and confusing. Weebly has done a great job making this task simple even for beginners. Another huge reason we like Weebly: Cost- \$0.



WHAT TO PUT ON YOUR WEBSITE

Content Ideas

Standards



VDOE

Provide parents and students with direct links and access to the VDOE Curriculum Standards of Learning, Curriculum Compasses, and Enhanced Scopes and Sequences.

Homework

Assignments

Post reading and practice assignments, copies of documents, math problems, writing prompts, or textbook page assignments on a central online calendar for your parents and students to access.



Table Talk

Topics

Facilitate parent involvement by posting table talk topics and conversation starters.

Practice

Student Portal

Provide students with easy access to curriculum-related and age-appropriate review and practice activities.

News

Classroom News

Let your parents keep up with all of the fun and interesting learning activities that are going on in your classroom by posting classroom news to your site.

Twitter in the Classroom

Social networking tools in the classroom can be greatly beneficial and easy to use, but also should be used cautiously. Twitter is an excellent example of a social networking tool that can be used to disseminate information and resources to students and parents without participating in reciprocal online relationships.

With Twitter, you can post helpful resources, homework reminders, test and quiz reminders, engage in real-time online discussions of events or broadcasts, post helpful hints, or simply promote positive thinking.

Teachers spend class time interacting with students in the hopes that they take our lessons and apply them outside of the classroom. If we can extend our presence and reach out into their digital world through Twitter, there is a better chance of them making that ever important connection of classroom skill to real world application.



FOLKS TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

@rmbyrne

Richard Byrne is a teacher, speaker, and writer who runs the Free Technology for Teachers blog. He provides a variety of helpful tech tips and resources for the classroom.

@arneduncan

Keep up with the US Secretary of Education through his official Twitter feed.

@DiscoveryEd

Follow Discovery Education to learn about featured resources and content.

@AP

Stay on top of breaking news by following the Associated Press' feed.

@edutopia

Check out quality strategies, resources, and information from Edutopia.

Text Alerts Without Compromising Privacy



remind101.com

Do many of your students and parents have cell phones? Texting has become the primary mode of communication for many of us. Use remind101 to send group texts and emails to your students and parents without displaying your phone number or collecting any phone numbers from students. Go to remind101.com to sign up for a free account. Use text alerts to remind students and parents of upcoming events, tests, or projects. Also available as an app for iOS and Android.

