

Technoparenting: Creating Web Pages That Improve Home/School Communications

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A complete set of handouts can be downloaded from www.doug-johnson.com/pres.html

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<i>Webpage and form design done by Voyager Web, www.voyageurweb.com</i>	

Technoparenting: Creating Webpages That Improve Home/School Communications
(Synopsis)
How can both parents and schools benefit from well-designed, purposeful class webpages? This session will highlight the purposes of class webpages, describe online gradebooks, give tips for helping reluctant teachers begin to create pages, and suggest strategies for getting all teachers in a building on the web.

The screenshot shows a webpage for Kennedy class at Dakota Meadows Middle School. At the top, it says "MANKATO AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS" and "Serving: Mankato, North Mankato, Eagle Lake, Madison Lake". There is a "District Pages" dropdown menu set to "Select Here". The page title is "Kennedy". Below that, it lists "Sarah Sample", "Sixth Grade Classroom Teacher", and contact information: "507-555-1234" and "ssamp11@isd77.k12.mn.us". A photo of Sarah Sample is shown. To the right of the photo is a "Welcome to My School Homepage" message. Below the photo, there are sections for "Class Happenings" and "My Links". The "Class Happenings" section has two paragraphs of text. The "My Links" section lists several links: "Dakota Meadows Weather Page", "Class links to Web Resources on Immigration", "Grading Policy", and "Field Trip Permission Slip". At the bottom, it says "Updated: 02/05/2001" and provides a URL: "http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/~ssamp11/".

A story

Indulge me for a moment by reading a personal tale of parental frustration.

When my son Brady was in the fifth-grade, he came home with a report card that was, shall we say, less than impressive. This bright, hard working boy was getting D's in social studies, science, and health. The first parent-teacher conference of the year was held ten weeks after school began, and it wasn't until then that I learned of the problems he was having.

At the conference, I asked his teacher a favor. "Please let me know what Brady needs to know in these areas, when the test dates are, and when the projects are due. I will help make sure he knows what he needs to know!"

A bit flustered, the teacher said she would get back to me.

I never saw the list of competencies or test dates, but I also noticed Brady never received less than a B in her class again. While at the time I viewed this as victory for proactive parenting, I have since worried that the skills and knowledge Brady should have gained during that year fell by the wayside.

Brady's teacher missed a tremendous opportunity by not enlisting my help and the help of the other children's parents in her class. Over one-fourth of the year was gone before I knew my son was having problems. Even had I known he was struggling, I did not know enough about the curricular content or teacher's expectations to know how to help.

Screenshot of Basic Teacher Homepage Form

Teacher Page Creation

When done completing this little form - YOU will have a simple teacher web page on the Mankato Area Public Schools web site. You can add links to 6 pages you have already created in other locations or to web sites that you want parents or students to know about.

Teacher First Name(s)

Teacher Last Name(s)

School

Classes Taught/or Job Title

Phone (507-xxx-xxxx)

You have two areas on your teacher page to share whatever you'd like. Class expectations, news and photos from last year, project notes, etc. The titles will be bold and larger print automatically. The text areas will appear as plain text, you can insert HTML code, like <P> to insert paragraph breaks in the text areas.

Photo

First Area TITLE

First Area

Second Area TITLE

Second Area

Enter here up to 6 links to whatever web pages/sites you'd like, these will appear under the heading My Links on your Teacher page

	Link Name	Link URL (address)
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>