

Put Your Class on the Web

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WHY A TECHTORIAL?

What will I learn today?

You will learn how to plan and create a class Web page.

What hardware and/or software does the techtorial apply to?

This techtorial applies to any PC or Mac with Internet access.

Which National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers does the techtorial address?

The techtorial will help teachers accomplish standard V. D in particular.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has developed a set of National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. Standards or Performance Indicators are included for each techtorial to help teachers and administrators improve technology proficiency. For a complete description of the standards indicated, go to [NETS for Teachers](#), click Standards in the menu bar on the left, and then click the arrow to the right of Standards and Performance Indicators for Teachers.

THE PURPOSE OF A WEB PAGE

A Web page is simply a document -- containing text, graphics, links to other pages, and so on -- that is posted on the World Wide Web. A Web page can stand alone or be part of a group of pages called a Web site.

A teacher-created Web page can

- improve parent-teacher communication.
- allow parents and students to access schedules, assignments, and other necessary information.
- provide a place to post lists of Web sites (hotlists) for students to use in class and/or at home.
- publicize classroom activities, projects, and special events.

Any teacher with a computer and Internet access can create a Web page. Commercial Web design software is not necessary.

THREE EASY STEPS

You can create a Web page in three easy steps:

1. Write the text.
2. Make the page pretty.
3. Upload the page to the Web. (Yes, you can do this!)

Note: Before you begin to create your Web page, be sure to learn your district's policy for posting teacher-created Web pages.

WRITE THE TEXT

If this is the first time you've created a Web page, you first need to plan what you'd like to include on the page. A useful teacher Web page might include:

- your name, school, and position;
- information about current assignments, units, activities...for each class or content area you teach; (Hint: Include digital photographs of projects and/or students working on them.)
- links to Web pages containing class-related resources. At the elementary level, you'll want to emphasize curriculum-related sites. At the secondary level, you might want to highlight college entrance exam links, homework help, and so on. At all levels, consider including links to online encyclopedias, dictionaries, learning games and drills...;
- a syllabus, weekly or monthly schedule, list of class rules and procedures...;
- general news or notes to parents, including reminders about upcoming school events and important dates or deadlines; and
- contact information, including your school e-mail address and the e-mail address and phone numbers for the school.

A teacher Web page should not include

- identifiable photographs or full names of individual students.
- your personal e-mail address. (Hint: Keep two e-mail accounts; one for school use and one for personal use.)

- out-dated or incorrect information. (If you're not known for planning ahead, avoid posting a nine-week schedule.)
- anything you don't want the whole world to see. (Be very careful what you post online!)

To make sure you're on the right track, evaluate your Web page using [COCOA P](#).

MAKE IT PRETTY

Not an artist? Don't worry! Content should be king! As a general rule,

- keep colors and designs simple.
- avoid backgrounds with busy patterns; they make text hard to read.
- avoid too many animated images or sounds. They distract from the message.
- keep the facts in black and white.

If you've ever come across a really annoying -- or a really elegant -- Web site, look at it again. Write down what makes the site bad or good.

UPLOAD THE PAGE

Check out the following options for uploading your page to the Web:

- [Web Worksheet Wizard](#) is the easiest way to upload a page. If you've already written or typed your ideas, putting a simple page on the free and easy-to-use Web Worksheet Wizard takes ten minutes or fewer -- even for beginners! Just click the link and follow the directions!
- If you've tried Web Worksheet Wizard and want more artistic freedom, sign up for a free account at [AngelFire](#) or [Geocities](#). (Caution: The ads at those sites can be annoying and not always age-appropriate for the primary grades, but they're easy to use and the price is right!)
- [Scholastic's HomePage Builder](#) is another free and easy option for teachers new to Web design. Just click the link, register, and follow the directions to create a colorful and quick page. Note: the design lends itself to elementary grades, so

secondary teachers may want to stick with Web Worksheet Wizard.

- If you're willing to spend a little money, want a site that's tailor-made to look educational without annoying ads, try [TeacherWeb](#).
- If your school or district can host the page from its own server, try using Teachers.Net [Homepage Maker](#), a free tool that allows you to create a Web page in just five minutes. Then have someone from your school or district help you upload it to the school's server.
- If you're able to spend more money and want to learn more about Web design, e-mail [the author](#) for tips on how to purchase Web design software or your own domain name!

TELL ME MORE!

Where can I find more information on creating my own class Web page?

For some examples of teacher Web sites, go to

- <http://wizard.hprtec.org/builder/open.php3> and type in worksheet ID number 19000 to see Debbie Miller's Hogwart Animal Companion page created with Web Worksheet Wizard.
- [Geography World](#) to see a more complex page for older students. That page contains a wealth of information, but requires a bit more Web design savvy and skill than a templated page created at a site such as Web Worksheet Wizard or Scholastic.
- the author's [Backflip public folder on Web Design](#) to find dozens of links to Web Design pages, including several pages on HTML, for those who want to move beyond the beginner stage.