

## EVALUATION REPORT

### Introduction

For my final project, I would like to create a class website for the families of my first grade students. The purpose for this website will be for parents to access teacher contact information, background information about the teacher, daily schedule, calendar of events specific to first grade, parent resources, and extended learning opportunities. It is vital that the class website I am creating compliments and connects with the website my elementary school already has in place. It is also beneficial for me to evaluate a class website already put into place by another teacher within my district. This allows me to reflect on the work and make changes that fit my specific needs for a classroom website. Therefore, the two websites I chose to evaluate were <https://graden.parkhill.k12.mo.us/home> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. and [https://ottism.neocities.org/islt\\_7360/unit7/final.html](https://ottism.neocities.org/islt_7360/unit7/final.html) (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.. The first website is my elementary school's website and the second one is a class website that a colleague of mine from the district created for her classroom. I evaluated both of the websites using Google Chrome on my Microsoft ThinkPad. I was on my home WiFi network, and both websites opened with no issue.

### Compare and Contrast the Sites

#### *Similarities*

Both websites are designed to provide families and parents with important information about the educational environment his/her student is attending. They both provide information in regards to school calendar events as well as direct links to external learning opportunities. Both sites display sound design principals. Both websites are subdivided in a logical manner and have a link to a home tab. Links for both website pages are up-to-date, functional, and have a distinct purpose. Due to the educational purpose of both websites, neither website has ads that would be distracting from the content of the website. In addition, credibility is established by including information regarding the author and credentials.

#### *Differences*

The main difference is that one site is an elementary school website created by a web design corporation and the other is an elementary classroom website created by a student of the Mizzou Educational Specialist in Technology Program. The elementary school website was more aesthetically pleasing in terms of pictures, links to video content, animation, and color contrast. Honestly, I know this is due to experience with coding and access to the district's own television station and copyrights. Another difference is that though both websites have menus at the top, the elementary school website has sub-menus and then further specific categories.

### Site One Strengths and Weaknesses

#### *Graden Elementary Homepage Strengths*

The multimedia elements on the Graden website are a definite strength. The design of images is eye-catching. The various links to Graden Spotlight Segments on Park Hill TV are extremely

engaging and have a clear purpose. I also appreciated the accessibility to the homepage anytime you navigated to a different page. It is also important to note how quickly multimedia elements downloaded.

### *Graden Elementary Homepage Weaknesses*

I think it is vital to point out that the natural flow of the Graden website is difficult to navigate. I honestly feel the saying “less is more” can be applied in this situation. Specifically, useful content is being embedded more than two layers deep. It is also important to note that quite a bit of text on the webpage is not up-to-date or current files have not been uploaded. I would say about 2 years out of date.

### Site Two Strengths and Weaknesses

#### *Mary Ottis: Kindergarten Website Strengths*

The navigation on her website is intuitive and flows naturally. I appreciated the accessibility to the homepage and subdividing of her content into labeled tabs. Her content was easy to read and the information she presented was vital. Her contact information is presented on the homepage in an easy to locate section.

#### *Mary Ottis: Kindergarten Website Weaknesses*

More multimedia elements would be beneficial, such as links to videos/photos of the students, animation, etc. However, I know this takes getting copyright privileges, etc. I think there is room for growth in terms of various content that could be added to this webpage. Similar to the Graden website, the information presented on some of the tabs is not current.

### Possible Uses

In one scenario, a parent might want to access my website to note what important upcoming events are occurring at Graden that apply specifically to first grade. The Graden Homepage Calendar can get overwhelming in regards to events. It is indistinguishable at times what events apply to the Graden Community and what events apply to teachers/staff only.

In the second scenario, a student might want to use my website-via their parent’s permission of course-to access links for online educational websites that we use within the classroom. For example, a student could complete their nightly reading homework by reading leveled text through the RAZ KIDS program.

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## **Kristian Wingo**

Hi Caitlin,

I'm not a parent and I haven't taught in public school before, so I'll just try to evaluate these websites based on my limited perspective.

The Graden website, like you said, was definitely more aesthetically pleasing than Mrs. Ottis's page. I think that's important to parents because good design typically reflects on how well run the organization is (although that's not always the case!). I found the page pretty easy to navigate, actually. The list of links and drop down menus at the top

seemed well organized and relevant to potential users. When clicked, the pages loaded well for me and seemed to have relevant and useful information. However, if information is very out of date, that is definitely a problem that should be taken care of.

Mrs. Ottis's page has useful information as well and can be navigated easily. It's bare bones, so the pages load very quickly. The information seems useful for parents, especially the daily schedule and games and links. I'm not sure if the news is still up to date or not - listing a school year at the top could solve that problem. Overall, the design choices are the most apparent. For someone new to web design, there is some room to be forgivable (I'm afraid my page won't be too much better!). But a few parts look like the page is still under construction. The italic font on the "About Mrs. Ottis" is difficult to read, the lavender bar behind the text on the News tab is confusing, and the small links on the right side of the Home page are hard to find. With a little tweaks to the design, it could be much more useful.