Evaluating Usability of a Classroom Website Designed to Improve Communication Between Home and School

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Overview

- Problem
- Purpose
- Audience
- Goals
- Prototype
- Usability
- Improvements
- Questions
Have you ever experienced a communication breakdown in a school setting?
Have you ever created your own website?
So, what’s the problem?
So, what’s the problem?

- Multiple jobs
- Lack of time
- Unorganized students
- Forgetfulness
How do we solve this problem?
How do we solve this problem?

By creating a classroom website!
The purpose of this usability study was to evaluate the ease-of-use and functionality of a 5th grade classroom website to improve communication with parents at a public school on the Big Island.
Audience

- Parents of 5th graders
- Family members
- Teachers, staff, administration
Goals

- Create an easy-to-use and functional classroom website
- Provide families with programs for home
- Continuously improve and add to the website
Tech Tools
Tech Tools

Wix

Google Sites
Tech Tools

[Images of Wix, Google Sites, and Weebly with 'X' marks]
Weebly.com

- Free
- Drag-and-drop features
  - Videos, images, documents, audio, text, slides
- Easily accessible for parents
Literature Review

- Lunts (2003) - Analyzed 93 teacher websites, interviewed 16 of those teachers
  - Popular items: self-intro, curriculum description, instructional activities, homework, and student work

- Halcomb, Castek, & Johnson (2007) - Reviewed 2,000 websites
  - Popular items: course overview, calendar, teacher info, email, link to the school’s website, date updated

- Schoolwires (2008)
  - Recommends including: contact info, welcome message, teacher bio, syllabus, homework, calendar, links, classroom rules, worksheets, resource lists
Welcome

About the Teacher

Schedules

Spelling Lists

Programs

Grading

Book Orders

Blog

Contact
Book Orders

- Simplified directions
- Online vs paper order form

Aloha Families,

Encouraging reading is one of the most important things we can do to help your child succeed. It can be tough finding the right books to keep them interested, which is why I am so excited that our class will be participating in Scholastic Reading Club this school year.

Want to order books for your child? There are two easy ways to order:

**Option #1 - Order online**
- VISIT [scholastic.com/readingclub](http://scholastic.com/readingclub)
- ENTER the one-time Class Activation Code **N343V**
- SHOP from a carefully curated selection of the best books and value packs
- PAY by credit card or debit card
- SUBMIT your order and earn FREE Books for our classroom

**Option #2 - Return order form**
- SHOP from the book order sent home with your child

QUESTIONS?
Call 1-800-SCHOLASTIC (1-800-724-6527)
Aloha Families!

This year, our spring break will run from Wednesday, March 16th through Monday, March 28th. This year our break is extended due to Good Friday falling on March 25 and our observance of Kuhio Day on March 28. Students will return to school on Tuesday March 29th.

I would like to congratulate all of the students on completing another quarter of school. Fourth quarter we have a lot of things to look forward to - we have our SBAC testing which will start in April. Also, our Hoʻike performance is scheduled for Friday, May 13 and our end-of-year assembly and 5th grade banquet is scheduled for the last day of school, May 26.

I hope that all of you have a fabulous spring break spent with friends and family. Lets hope for sun amidst the Merrie Monarch festivities around Hilo town!

Aloha,

Mr. Hokoana
Contact Page

- Email
- Phone
- Fillable form

School address
- Map

CONTACT ME

If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to contact me, please feel free to call or email me at any time. Mahalo!

NAME *
First
Last

EMAIL *

COMMENT *

EMAIL ADDRESS
kenton_hokoana@notes.k12.hi.us

TELEPHONE NUMBER
(808) 981 - 7215

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
180 W. Puainako Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Submit
Grading

- Percentages vs standards-based grading
- Assessments
- General Learner Outcomes (GLOs)

## Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 95</td>
<td>ME (Meets with Excellence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94 - 80</td>
<td>MP (Meets Proficiency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 - 50</td>
<td>DP (Developing Proficiency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 &amp; below</td>
<td>WB (Well Below)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**GLO 1: Self-Directed Learner**

**Kuleana Ihola**

In the days of old, questioning the instructor was rude. The student paid close attention to what was taught. Students learned quickly and were able to perform the task and, in turn, teach others.
UNIT 1

Spelling Lists
- Viewable
- Downloadable
- Weekly overview
- Newsletter format
Schedules

- Bell schedule
- Homeroom schedule
- Partner class schedule
School Programs

- Language Arts and Math
- Curriculum connection
- Supplemental sites

The following programs are websites that the 5th grade team uses throughout the day to help students learn new content and also practice the skills learned in class. Students have access to all of these programs and can be used at home for extra practice.

- ConnectED
- iReady
Usability

Ease-of-use

Functionality
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Are you interested in helping to provide input on the development of classroom website?

If the answer is YES...

Your child's teacher, Kaulana Hokoana, would like to invite you to participate in a research study. The purpose of this usability study is to evaluate the ease-of-use and user-satisfaction of a 5th grade classroom website to improve communication with parents.

- Usability Studies take place in one of two formats - with volunteers using their own laptop/desktop internet connection or at a mutually agreed researcher's computer and wireless connection.
- All information and data will be kept strictly confidential and only used for the purposes of this research.
- A report of the study will be available to the teacher and parents.

Usability Testing Informed Consent Form

Please read and sign this form if you agree with the following conditions.

University of Hawai'i
Evaluating Usability of a Classroom Website Designed to Improve Communication Between Home & School

Aloha! My name is Kaulana Hokoana, your child's 5th grade teacher, and I am a third year Masters student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am conducting this research project as a requirement for a Master's degree in Learning Design and Technology. The purpose of this usability study is to evaluate the ease-of-use and functionality of a 5th grade classroom website to improve communication with parents.

By being asked to participate in this research study because you are feeling apart of it. Your participation in this study will help to improve the classroom website to improve current and future user experience.

1. How often do you use the internet?
2. How long will they last?
3. Be offered in two formats - the first, meeting virtually online or in person using a computer with internet access at the central location. If you participate, you will be asked to use the classroom website. You will be asked to complete the survey online using the classroom website.
Task #5 - Navigate the website to find information about the various programs your child has access to

Scenario:
You would like to support your child’s learning by continuing their learning at home - what programs are available for your child?

- Where would you click on? Why?
- How can you tell what each program is designed for?
- What programs are listed?

Steps fulfilled: (Test facilitator checks each step as the participant completes the task)

___ Clicks on “Programs” tab
___ Locates the program names and short descriptors
___ Reads out loud the listed programs

Time to complete task: ____________

**Please let me know when you feel that you have completed the task.**

That was the last scenario for our session. I have a quick post-study survey for you to complete. Please feel free to ask me questions if something is unclear to you. I will post the link to the
Two rounds of testing
Improvements

The following programs are websites that the 5th grade team uses throughout the day to help students learn new content and also practice the skills learned in class. Students have access to all of these programs and can be used at home for extra practice.

**ConnectED**

- **Subject**: Language Arts
- Use this website to play games related to this week's language arts content. Read or listen to stories ahead of time and complete assignments.

**i-Ready**

- **Subject**: Language Arts & Math
- Use this website to have your child learn and practice specifically designed lessons in language arts and math. The lessons are developed to help your child and correct any errors in their learning.

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**WELCOME**

ABOUT THE TEACHER
BLOG
BOOK ORDERS
SPELLING LISTS
PROGRAMS
BOOK ORDERS
GRADING
SCHEDULES
CONTACT
CONTACT ME
If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to contact me, please feel free to call or email me at any time. Mahalo!

CONTACT ME
If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to contact me, please feel free to call or email me at any time. You can fill out the form below and click "Submit" and an email will be sent directly to me. Or simply copy and paste my address into your email and send me a message. Mahalo!

NAME *

First

Last

EMAIL *

COMMENT *

Submit
Order of importance
WELCOME TO MR. HOKOANA’S 5TH GRADE CLASSROOM WEBSITE!

Welcome to E-101! This website was created to help keep parents informed about their child’s learning in my class. You will find contact information, a blog section, book order information and a page dedicated to spelling lists for the week. If you would like to see anything specific on this site, please feel free to contact me and offer suggestions to add to the website. I look forward to working with you and your child this school year!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 15: 3rd Quarter Ends
- March 16 - 24: NO SCHOOL: Spring Break
- March 25: NO SCHOOL: Good Friday
- March 28: NO SCHOOL: Kuhio Day
- March 29: Students return to school
- April 19 - 22: SBAC ELA Testing
- May 3 - 6: SBAC Math Testing
- May 13: Hoʻike at the Civic Auditorium
Looking to the future...

- Include an online gradebook for parent access

- Continue to add pages
  - Homework, math, science, social studies, student blog section

- Create a collaborative website with my partner teacher
Final Reflection

- Usability testing should occur more than once when creating a website.
- Learn how to ask the right questions.
- There is always room for improvement.
- Lots of time spent up front creating the website and a few minutes per week updating.
MAHALO!

- Family
- Friends
- Grade-level team and coworkers
- CFG - Kuulei and Kelli
- Dr. Peter, Dr. Menchaca, and all of the professors at the COE
QUESTIONS?