

Faculty Insider—Safe Classroom Web Design

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“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

~Benjamin Franklin

Building a Web site can be a fun project for an individual or a classroom. More and more teachers are finding that a Web site or webpage is an easy and convenient way to create a connection between the classroom and home.

Think of all the ways you might use this type of site. Examples of ways classroom webpages can be used include: provide teacher biographies, introduce new parents and students; inform of needed classroom materials; list homework expectations; provide recommended reading material or other study aide suggestions. Some teachers use webpages to showcase students' work or to post classroom or field trip photos. The list goes on and on, and unfortunately, sometimes attention to online safety and responsible use gets lost in creative design. It is easy to provide direct and indirect information about teachers, students, and parents that could be used negatively by a predator or identity thief. Another point to consider is copyright. A generous gesture of passing on a handy study-guide can involve copyright issues if it exceeds fair use guidelines.

So when setting up your site, go by a plan that helps you determine the goal of your Web pages, if they are more geared to the student, or the family, or both. Are they to inform, or entertain, or both? During the creative process review your page(s) critically by looking at the following areas:

1) Legal and Intellectual Property - Does any of the content on your site infringe on the copyright of others? Does it extend beyond fair use, or does it misrepresent another's intellectual property?

2) Consider direct and indirect information that you have posted, such as posting a friendly reminder of a classroom field trip that may provide date, time and location.

3) Are student photos viewable?
One good strategy for creating a safe



Web site is to have another teacher who is informed about Internet safety review the pages with you. If personal information is available the site should be password protected so that only this school year's students and families may have access to it. Perhaps the easiest way to add password protection to your Web site is to use a free online service. All you have to do is sign up and add some code to your homepage. Most of these services work by simply giving you a code to add to your HTML after you sign up. This code creates a box for your readers to enter their username and password so they can get to your password protected pages. For more information and options for sites that provide free password protection code, use your favorite search engine to search a phrase such as download free Web site password protection.

Enjoy creating for your audience and help model Internet safety and responsible use practices to others with a safe site.

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NACTracks

Does your school's Web site have a password protected login?

A: Yes

B: No

Vote here

Beat Street Cyber Cafe is Open for Business

Recognizing that people of all ages love music, and want to get it quickly and cheaply online, i-SAFE has stepped up its education and awareness campaign to include teaching younger students and adults the moral and legal alternatives to illegal music downloading.

The “Beat Street Experience” is the newest and most unique in the collection of i-SAFE multi-media assemblies and curriculum packages. “Beat Street” is designed for third and fourth grade students. The 30–40 minute presentation takes students to the Beat Street Cyber Café and it combines videos, a humorous one-act play, student participation, and a sing-along to introduce basic intellectual property terms, as well as communicating to students the moral issues of responsibility and ownership. With the help of an innovative cartoon – featuring i-Buddy and Donny the Downloader – students are engaged, therefore more willing to learn and remember the anti-piracy message.

Statistics from student surveys reveal the rate of illegal music downloading and piracy is all too common. Further, students seem to base their illegal behavior in part on ignorance of the consequences. Nearly one-half (43%) of middle school students believe no one is harmed or loses money when they download music or movies without paying for them. Almost one-third (31%) of high school students agree. What’s more, according to the survey conducted by i-SAFE’s National Assessment Center (NAC) during the 2005–06 school year, the practice of illegal downloading is pervasive among all students, even the younger ones. The findings show that among the students in grades 3–4 who download

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music, 69% do so illegally, that is, without paying. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of students in grades 5–8 who download music and/or videos do so without paying. The disturbing trend continues for older students; 77% of students in grades 9–12 admit to illegal downloading music and videos.

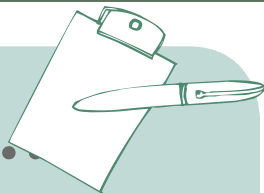
At the same time, i-SAFE education programs demonstratively raise awareness among students and positively change their behaviors. Based on a recent sampling of 10,000 students nationwide after receiving i-SAFE intellectual property curriculum, 55% say that they will never copy music for friends in the future, and 46% say they won’t accept pirated music from their friends. 58% say they now realize people



lose money when they illegally download music. And, to further gauge the impact of education, of the 61% of students who say they regularly download music, more than half (51%) say they’ll now pay or get permission to do so in the future. i-SAFE CEO and Program Director Teri Schroeder says that students respond favorably when these complex and moral issues are presented in a manner in which they can understand.

The “Beat Street” Experience is launched just months after the release of “The Donny the Downloader Experience” assembly and curriculum for middle school students, as well as “Learn B 4 U Burn” and “What’s the Download” assemblies and curriculum for high school students. i-SAFE now provides 4 school assemblies, 23 age-appropriate lessons in the Intellectual Property curriculum unit at school, and a 15 minute video produced to educate parents about their legal and moral responsibility in regards to illegal music downloading. “Many parents are shocked when they learn that they are liable for their children’s illegal behavior on the family’s computer,” says Schroeder. “Parents also need to be aware about intellectual property issues so they can help stop illegal downloading in their homes.”

Educators and others who would like to conduct this assembly may request materials by creating an account at www.isafe.org. The CD/DVD set is also available for purchase through i-SAFE’s online store: <http://auth.isafe.org/store/digital.php>. The parent video is now incorporated into the i-PARENT Toolkit available through implementation plan or through i-SAFE’s online store 



Curriculum Bonus—Knowing the Code of Conduct

This month's "Curriculum Bonus" provides a survey-based activity to help open links of communication with your students and establish an understanding of your code of conduct for technology use in the classroom.

To find the curriculum bonus go to <http://www.isafe.org/bonus>.

Team Up With i-SAFE

Currently, i-SAFE has reached more than three million students with Internet safety information. By providing free materials, programs, and educational videos, students are learning how to make positive choices when challenged with today's technology. Not only are students learning to protect themselves against predators, they are also learning how to make decisions regarding intellectual property, identity theft, and more.

i-SAFE strives to provide educators, schools, and students with the most current information regarding the issues youth face today on the Internet. In order to bring our programs and materials to your school and community, we rely upon donations.

We would be grateful if you, or perhaps someone you know, could assist i-SAFE in reaching as many children as possible. Since i-SAFE is a 501(c)(3) corporation, your donations are fully tax deductible.

To donate, you can e-mail us at donations@isafe.org or go to www.isafe.org/donations.

Site Spotlight

Take your students on exciting and fun interactive Web adventures this summer. Students can create music, explore black holes, design buildings, learn about the exciting world of bugs, and much more! Log on and see what EduWeb <http://www.eduweb.com/portfolio/adventure.php> has to offer!

Class Web sites can be a breeze with Scholastic's Class Homepage builder. Check out <http://homepage.scholastic.com/CHBuilderWeb>. Students and parents need a username and password to visit your site, making it safer for all.

In Your School

Everyday, many i-SAFE Inc. events are going on across the country. We've made it easy for you to get involved and help spread the message of Internet safety to your peers and community. Simply check out our "Calendar of Events," located at http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=ai&sub_id=3 to find an event near you.



About i-SAFE

Founded in 1998 and active in all 50 states, i-SAFE Inc. is the leader in Internet safety education. i-SAFE is a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower students, parents, seniors, and community members to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experiences. i-SAFE provides knowledge that will enable them to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior; and to respond appropriately. This is accomplished through dynamic K through 12 curriculum and community-outreach programs to students, parents, law enforcement, and community leaders. i-SAFE is the only Internet safety foundation to combine these elements. www.isafe.org