Class Websites

Links to the websites:

Spanish 1
French 3
French 4
French 5

Reflection

Description

I created websites for each of the four different classes I teach. I created the website for French 5 using the website I made for the Web Based Learning Systems class along with Chrissie Dispina. This site was created as a Google Site. This was very useful as it is easy to copy an original Google site. In this way, I could leave the original work intact and work on the copy. The sites for French 4, French 3 and Spanish 1 were created from a different Google site theme. I created the basic structure for one site and then copied it for the others before tailoring the sites to the needs of the different classes and students. I created the sites in my personal, private Google account rather than the school account. I like to know that I will always have access to them – even if I leave the school where I am currently teaching.

My idea for the sites was for them to be less elaborate than the original site I created during coursework as this latter was really created to offer aspects of online learning. The new sites were created for face 2 face classrooms to offer support material – instructive videos, notes, presentations and links (vocabulary quizlets, useful sites). I created the sites as the year progressed, constantly adding materials. I embedded two superimposed Google calendars – one with the school calendar (we have an A/B day schedule) and including all teacher work days and holidays to keep the students organized. The other calendar was for posting assignments – mainly homework, but also class work assignments on snow days or during times when many students were absent (chorus trip and AP exams, for example). I divided the site into a page for each chapter as well as extra administrative pages. I embedded
two Google forms – one for student information at the beginning of the year and one for quarterly progress reports. I also embedded a link that students could click on to contact me via my Google Voice number.

**Impact**

I have found these sites extremely useful and think that they have helped the students considerably. From my point of view, they help house materials and resources in an accessible and organized way. For the students, they are easy to access and students have expressed their appreciation for the notes and embedded videos. They are particularly important as the school system no longer buys us textbooks. It is therefore particularly important for the students to have somewhere to go when they want to study. Students are also always very busy and some have a hard time attending tutoring due to extracurricular commitments (sports, driver’s education and so forth). These sites offer a way to study independently in their own time. I consider that the sites will always be a work in progress as I add resources and continue to mold them. The sites will be particularly useful next year and in the years that follow as I now have the structure and many materials. Last year it was quite hard to keep up with creating the sites at the same time as teaching.

**Intent**

This coming school year I intend to continue adding materials to the sites and making changes where necessary. The work on the sites for the lower levels (Spanish 1 and French 3) is more developed than for the higher levels. This was a choice I made as higher-level students generally have less need for support and are more motivated to attend tutoring if they have need of it. I will, therefore, work particularly hard on the higher-level sites.