



BloggerTM



Creating Unique and Interactive Blogs for Students and Parents

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MR. DERIS' 1ST GRADE BLOG

Using Blogger and Web 2.0 Tools to Connect with Students, Communicate with Parents and Display Learning In the Classroom

You will learn how to include many web 2.0 tools such as: adding video from sources like FlipVideo, embedding video with Youtube, attaching documents through the Box and more. Learn how to turn your traditional Friday newsletter into something truly engaging that parents will be sure to read and students will bookmark.

www.derisclassroom.blogspot.com

How I use my blog!



Homework and Challenge Opportunities



Classroom, School and District News & Announcements



Parent Reminders



Daily, Weekly and Future Event Lists



Showcase Student Work, Photos and Thinking



feedback



Post Up-To-Date Documents

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What Parents Have to Say...

24 out of 24 parents prefer the blog to the traditional Friday newsletter. Find out why below:

"My favorite thing about the blog is the "This Week" portion on the right side. It is such an efficient way to look at what is going on that day and week."

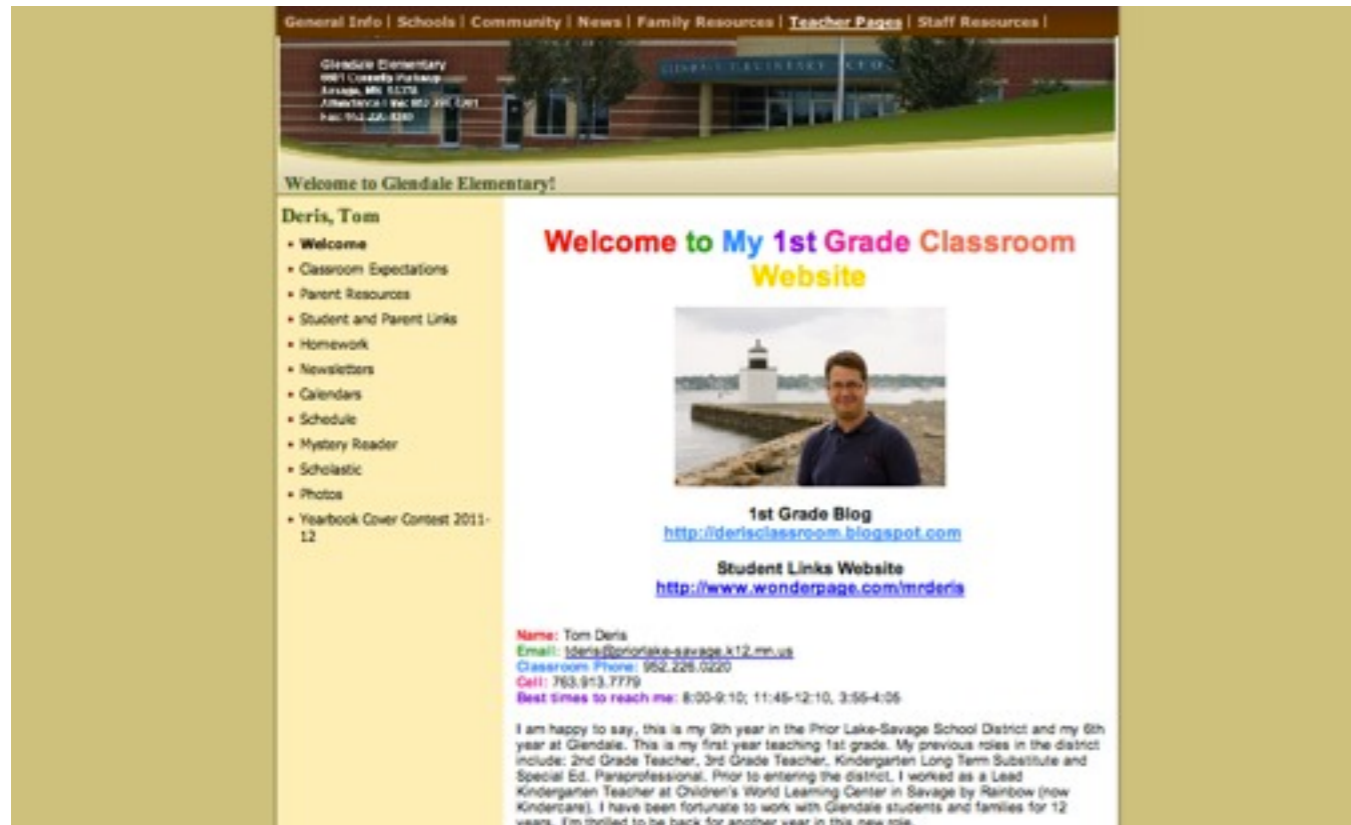
"I love the blog! With four kids and a 20-hour a week job, I need all the help I can get! The blog really makes it easy to find out what I need to know each day and each week."

"I love the blog too! It was so user friendly. I LOVED being able to just go to ONE site and get all my information that we needed. The kids had a lot of fun with it as well."

"My child loved the opportunity to use the blog to communicate with classmates and Mr. Deris, particularly during the vocabulary math challenge."

"One of my favorite things was the comments, especially at the end of the year when the kids were sharing their best memories of the school year."

Classroom Website vs. Blog



Permanent Content:

- Curriculum
- Procedures
- Schedules
- Classroom Rules
- Expectations



Current Content:

- PDF Documents (handouts & homework)
- Videos and Photos
- Student Work
- Dates and Timelines
- Reminders
- News and Announcements

Top 10 Blog Uses



1. This Week and Looking Ahead
2. Attach documents parents will find useful
3. Showcase student work (photos or slideshows)
4. Showcase student thinking (video and comments)
5. Provide homework opportunities
6. Provide math and language arts challenges
7. Gain feedback from parents and students
8. Reference key links and resources
9. Communication triangle: teacher, student and parents
10. Classroom, building and district news and announcements

Handouts on TIES Wiki

Blogger 101: Create a blog using your Gmail account, set-up design/function, add images, add links, create and edit a post, view stats



Blogger 102: Attaching documents



Blogger 102: Background template

Blogger 102: Embedding videos



Blogger 102: Gadgets and widget



Parent Communication

1. I post updates throughout the week. Then on Friday, I email my parents with the blog link and the titles of the post since my last email. I post all information I need parents to know in my blog (classroom info, homework, dates to know, school news, district news etc).

2. As you create posts, consider Tweeting the title of the posts and the link. I created a separate Twitter account for my parents.

