

## Web Evaluation

IS\_LT 7360 Intro. To Web Development

### Websites Reviewed:

<https://www.msricesroom.com/>

<https://larawaymusic.com/>

### Compare and Contrast:

Two middle school websites were chosen for review as my website will apply to the same grade level and will be used as an information center for students and parents just like these websites. Both websites provide an overview of their courses and parents have the ability to contact teachers with any questions or concerns through an embedded contact form. The websites also describe their curriculums and what content each grade level is focusing on. Teachers are introduced and the school district is highlighted in some fashion. The websites are similar although there are a few differences that make each unique.

Ms. Rice's Room website is focused on 7th grade math and includes links to documents needed by both parents and students. Each of the math courses includes a blog but is connected through their Google accounts so individuals that are not apart of their school district cannot read the information. This may be used for privacy reasons or easier accessibility within the district. Information is provided to gain access to their online math textbook along with links to each unit and connected resources.

The Laraway Music website is focused on a K-8 Music program including vocal and instrumental music, and drama. This website includes a Google calendar along with links to each ensemble with performance information. There are a variety of photos included of the various ensembles along with classroom rehearsals. The website includes many links on the right side to the district page, Class Dojo, music games, and the ability to change the page into Spanish through Google Translate.

### Strengths and Weaknesses

*Site #1 (Ms. Rice's Room):*

Ms. Rice's Room website had an easy to read format and the layout supported the organization of the courses. Tabs are located at the top of the page with drop down options for visitors. Syllabi, rubrics, and even a student forum were included allowing for students to gain a better understanding of expectations and provides a platform to collaborate. These resources are

very useful. The website includes many links especially under the “tools and resources” tab. The links provided are all functioning and easy to see as a homepage image is seen with each link option. Citations are not included the various links therefore there may be some copyright infringements issues. I liked that the website was connected to the other core content courses in that grade level. Each teacher had a website for their content area and the cluster site option allowed you to access those. I thought this website was easily accessible and supported students and parents throughout the courses. One weakness is that this website has not been updated since the 2015-2016 school year, as the teacher has decided to pursue higher education.

*Site #2 (Laraway Music):*

The Laraway Music website is visually appealing although the pages seem to be more cluttered with information. The website includes a plethora of courses, up to date information, and is a shared spot for the arts department. There are tabs located at the top of the page with drop down options to help with material organization. A strength of the this website is the option to translate the page’s language in order to apply to more populations. A weakness of this website is that photos associated with each page is not always pertinent to that subject matter or grade level. For example, the photo on the “drama” page pertains to elementary general music not middle school theatre. This website is also associated with WordPress blogs so I am unsure of the organizational or visual options available within the program.

**Use Cases:**

The website I am currently building will in support of my middle school music classroom. I plan to focus on the middle school choir and theatre courses I teach and share information pertaining to both students and parents. One use case in which the website will be used is for parents to visit to obtain information for their child’s vocal music performances and to gain an understanding of what their child is accomplishing in class. Parents will also be able to contact the teacher with any questions or concerns. Another use case in which the website will be used is for students to visit if they need help or more practice with certain concepts we are focusing on or if they want to listen to a recording of a piece of music we are currently rehearsing.

## Peer Feedback

M. Vaughan

Melissa,

*I really like the set up of both of these websites. I think that they are organized in a way that is user friendly and they have design features that catch your attention. I would agree that both navigation bars are set up in a friendly easy to use format. Both of these websites have a lot of information being presented to the reader, although the information is organized quite differently on each.*

E. Beck

Melissa,

*I love the embedded contact form as well. That's a tool I didn't see on the websites I reviewed but want to include on my grade level site. Layout and design on the first website is simple and clean. I like the offsetting text on the home page which I think is more visually appealing than text all written on the left side of the page. Graphics are pertinent, never included just to include a picture.*

*I agree with your statement about the second website being cluttered. There was so much going on that it was hard to focus on finding the exact information you might be looking for. I love the google calendar idea. I also like that the site uses pictures of the students however, some of the heading pictures were so large that you had scroll down to see any content. This personally is a pet peeve of mine. Good catch on the pictures not relating to the page also. That's an important detail to catch.*