

# Engaging Students & Parents in Technology

Technology: Teaching for the 21st Century  
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## Student Website Development

**I**ntroduction: This presentation will address methods to create a free website for and with students that will allow them to log portfolio materials, create interactive documents, and blog on, for example, their reading assignments. Such a project can be based around one book or even one course.

### **O**bjectives:

1. Set-up a class friendly website in less than 10 minutes
2. Select the design for the site.
3. Save photos to a file and upload them to the site.
4. Link websites to one another to create pages.
5. Create an interactive pictorial collage set to music.
6. Create a blog for the site.
7. Log portfolio materials.
8. Get parents involved with the site.
9. Publish the website and access it.

**E**xtras: You can create your own audio for each website page using a microphone and the free program Audacity, which can be downloaded (make sure to download only the stable version) through a Google search. Weebly does charge a nominal fee for using the audio system, and six months is the minimum purchase.

### **F**REE TUTORIAL RESOURCES:

- Adobe Tutorials: You can access free tutorials through the [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) site and type in tutorials in the search engine, or at <http://tv.adobe.com/#pg+1600>.
- Free Microsoft tutorials for students and teachers are available at <http://www.microsoft.com/education/lessonplans.mspx>. Free Microsoft tutorials for computer programs are at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com).
- Weebly website examples used today in this presentation are at <http://structure.weebly.com/>
- A blog can be added from [www.blogspot.com](http://www.blogspot.com). Create the blog first and then link it to the “Blog” page that you create on your website.
- For a picture slideshow, use [www.animoto.com](http://www.animoto.com). Select the free 30 sec. “animoto short,” and then upload the images you wish to use in the piece. Select music from their collection or add your own. Click create video and give it time to render. It will send the completed video to your e-mail address. Then upload it to [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com).