***Create the Outline for a Class Website for WordPress***

1. **BRAINSTORM THE KINDS OF INFORMATION YOU WOULD NEED ON YOUR WEBPAGE**

Examine examples of the type of sites you want to create. What ideas do you get from them?

* <http://theedublogger.com/check-out-these-class-blogs>
* <http://www.cloverpark.k12.wa.us/clover_park/pages/buildingcontact.html>
1. **CREATE THE SITE FOR YOUR BLOG**
	* Log in to our WordPress site.
	* Click on “sites” on menu bar.
	* Click on *Create a New Site*
	* Give it a Name *(Important: There are lots of things you can go back to edit – the Name is not one of them. And the name can become part of the web address -- Pick carefully).*

**3**

 **PLAN THE LAYOUT OF YOUR BLOG:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Examine WordPress themes** (i.e. templates)* Add some content to the default blog & click ***update.***
* Explore 4-5 different themes (templates)
* Go to Themes (under *Appearance* in *Dashboard*)
* Preview a few options
* Click & *Activate one of them*
* Explore the “customize” feature. What kinds of things does it let you adapt?
* See how each one might impact the layout of your blog
* Choose a theme to work with today (you can always change it later)
 |  | **Plan the purpose & type of content your site will hold:** * Review the decisions you need to make. Visit: <http://www.nvcc.edu/home/ataormina/wdc/readings/storybd.htm>

**Create a story-board*** What’s the main page?
* What are the main topics that will be on a navigational menu?
* How is a user going to move through the site? How will you make sure you don’t take user to a dead-end? e.g:
	+ How will people get to the subtopics?
	+ How will people make their way back to homepage, etc.
* See examples of story boards Bridget & I created to develop our Investigations site.
 |

**4**

**LEARN SOME IMPORTANT FEATURES OF A BLOG**

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| **If you are ready to investigate on your own:**Examine the underbelly of the investigations siteWork through tutorial <http://wikis.evergreen.edu/computing/index.php/WordPress_Tutorial> |  | **If you want a guided tour first with Sonja☺****Walk through features of *Investigation* site to examine design features to decide on and then use:*** Pages vs. Posts?
* Category system?
* How to create menus?
* Headers?
* Comments or no comments?
* Gallery?
 |

**5**

**Outline your website**

1. Create all the main pages/posts you plan to have. Put a title and brief description on each one.
2. For posts – create and attach the appropriate category to each post (think about what posts you want to see pop up together when you click on a category from the menu)
3. Create the menus that will direct the viewer to each of your pages/posts.
4. Organize the menu
	* Are the menu items in the right order?
	* Are the menu items main topics or subtopics?

***Some considerations when on communicating with families using the web:***

* Assessing Technology’s Role in Communication between Parents and Middle Schools (Rogers & Wright, 2008 retrieved from <http://ejite.isu.edu/Volume7/Rogers.pdf>)
* Effective practices in home-school communication -- research summary and annotated bibliography (Evidence Based Services Team of the Hamilton Wentworth School Board, 2010 retrieved from: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/e-best/files/2011/03/Home-School-Communication-BLAM.pdf>)