

# DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SYLLABUS

2007-2008

## ABOUT THE COURSE

### CLASS RULES:

- Surfing, e-mail, games allowed only with teacher permission.
- Read and re-read the school computer usage forms. You may not change the wallpaper, screensaver, or any other settings on any school-owned computer.
- Be in your seat when the bell rings.
- No food or drink in the classroom. Period.
- If you are absent it is your responsibility to make up the work on your own time.
- You will keep all projects in your webpage folder until you have it uploaded to your webpage.
- All assignments **MUST** be uploaded to specific files on your own personal web site. Failure to complete assignments **EXACTLY** as assigned will result in a failing grade.

By now you have read the course description, you have talked to former Digital Communications (formerly web page) students, and you have a pretty good idea about what this class is about. And you probably do—kind of.

We are going to begin our year with PhotoShop Elements, where you will learn to create and edit your own graphics. This will help you to incorporate graphics into your webpage that do not violate copyright laws, plus you will be the only one in the world to have that graphic!

Once you can create and edit your graphics we will begin our journey into web page design. You will be working with a variety of software programs

throughout this course, AND you will be learning HTML so you can edit your web pages without the assistance of an editor. Pretty neat, huh!

As you progress with your abilities to create and edit web pages you are going to want to learn some of the cool tricks that make people go “WOW!” So, you will learn how to work with DHTML and how to create short videos that you can upload into your webpage.

As you are learning how to create web pages you will also be honing up on your journalism skills. You don't think you were going to just work on your personal web page did you? Yup, you will also be responsible for working on

our school web page.

Among the most exciting changes to this course, you will be learning to create amazing videos, stop-motion videos, morph one photo into another, create a Podcast, Blog, Wiki, create ring tones, and much more!

We have a busy year ahead of us!

### SCHOOL WEBPAGE— [HTTP://WWW.USD492.ORG](http://www.usd492.org)

This course was created by administration and our school board 4 years ago. Our community wanted a better communication tool, and so we began the introduction of this course.

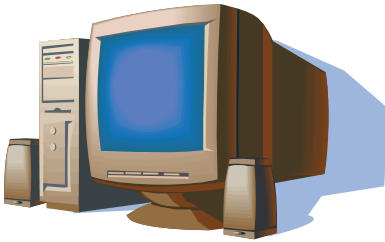
Our school web page has management levels. This

means that you will be able to see exactly what your page will look like as you work, but it will not be “live” (available for public viewing) until the manager of the website (that would be me, the teacher) approves your page. Because I don't look at that page every day you will fill out a form to let

me know you have a page that needs approved. You will want to keep your section updated, because working on the school web page is 25% of your grade!



## So what will we be graded on?



Your grade in this course will be based upon your knowledge in HTML, which will be demonstrated by your ability to do your projects. You will be

expected to create pages using basic coding AND through a variety of web authoring tools. You will also be expected to upload your pages onto the internet and have your coding work properly. I expect your links to work, your pictures to show up, your music to play, and your special effects to be visible online. Obviously, we will work on these and you will be given ample opportunities to create pages in which all HTML coding works.

You will also receive daily points. You will lose daily points

if you access e-mail, play internet games, or anything else that is not conducive to your completing your web page design assignments. You must receive at least 75% of your daily points to keep internet privileges. If you drop below 75% in daily points your internet access will be taken away and you will complete all assignments using only software available. If you drop below 60% in daily points you will complete assignments using paper and pencil. No computer access will be given until you raise your grade.

Tests will be "hands on" - you will be given an assignment and be expected to have the ability to complete this assignment without help from either myself or a classmate.

Technology changes at such a

significant pace that it is impossible to know everything. In addition to HTML, there are also scripts for DHTML, Java, Perl, and CSS to name a few. We will explore DHTML, and if time allows we will explore the others.

Your first assignment will be to go to Yahoo, create a new account, and give me your log-in. Remember your password because I won't have access to that information. Failure to upload all assignments to your Yahoo page will result in failing assignments! I can't grade what I can't see!



## WHAT'S A WIKI? BLOG? PODCAST?

Some new additions to this class is the addition of a classroom created Wiki, Blog, & some podcasts. You will be creating these and uploading them on a weekly basis.

We will begin by creating a Wiki site. You will be in small groups, with each group responsible for creating a Wiki page for each area of learning. Our Wiki page is at <http://flinthills.pbwiki.com>. On this Wiki, you will create "How to" pages that you can reference throughout the year.

Blogging is something that you have probably all participated in, but maybe not

in an educational setting. We will be setting up a classroom blog where you will participate in discussions about assignments, the latest technology, and other topics related to class.

Podcasting is similar to speech class, only you won't be seen, you can edit your verbal pauses & mistakes, and you can share with a much larger audience.

Video editing, photo morphing, cell phone tones—all of these are software that we have and will be used this year. It's going to be a busy year!

## Websites to Remember

Our District Website

<http://www.usd492.org>

For Editing our District Website

<http://www.usd492.org/cs>

For all of your assignments

<http://www.geocities.com/webtechclass>

Our Wiki Site

<http://flinthills.pbwiki.com>

Our Blogging Site

<http://mrsaustin.ning.com>