J. Sherwood-Hill MEDT 6401 Website Evaluation Fall, 2008

NETS Standard 3 - **Model Digital-Age Work and Learning:** Teachers exhibit knowledge, skills, and work processes representative of an innovative professional in a global and digital society. Teachers:

C: Communicate relevant information and ideas effectively to students, parents, and peers using a variety of digital-age media and formats.

Teachers need to be able to communicate relevant information such as school information, grades or behavior expectations to all stakeholders using a variety of digital-age media. One important aspect of communication is that teachers must be able to show and tell students about the danger of believing all information on websites. In other words, students need to be able to review a website with a critical eye. Furthermore, students are faced with a tremendous amount of digital overload and are not trained properly to inspect websites carefully before using for research projects. They are in a rush to finish and move on to the next social activity of the day. This project - website **evaluation -** opened my eyes to look carefully at accuracy, objectivity, currency and coverage of a website.

During the school year, I will introduce a mini class exercise for evaluating a website. We will work together to understand what is a good website for information using the steps outlined in this exercise. This will be the initial step to help my sixth grade students when they have to look for resources to help write a research paper. I will give them a sheet to work on with a partner to review sources and then they will have to make a decision on whether or not the website is dependable or not. For this assignment, I will give them the website examples for them to review so they are not overwhelmed.