

Build a Real Website — Course Overview

WebHaste Classroom Kit · Intro to Web Design · Grades 7–12 · 12 sessions of 45–60 minutes

What students do

Over four weeks, every student builds and ships a small multi-page website on a topic they choose (a mini exhibit, a club, a hobby, a local landmark). They write the content, structure it with real HTML, style it with real CSS, check it for accessibility and broken links, and hand in a site that opens in any browser with no server.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, students can:

1. **Explain how a website is built:** files, folders, pages, links, and what a browser does with them.
2. **Structure content with semantic HTML:** one `h1`, ordered headings, lists, links, tables, images.
3. **Write for the web:** short paragraphs, scannable headings, plain language, cited sources.
4. **Style a site with CSS:** colors, type, spacing, and a layout that works on a phone and a desktop.
5. **Build accessible pages:** alt text, meaningful link text, heading order, readable contrast.
6. **Test their own work:** find and fix broken links and missing content before turning it in.

Why WebHaste works as a teaching tool

- **Real files, not a locked-in platform.** A student's project is an ordinary folder of `.html` and `.css` files, the same thing professional developers work with, and students keep it forever.
- **Visual and Code view side by side.** Beginners start in a visual editor with a live preview. When they're ready, one click shows the HTML behind it. The visual editor builds the bridge to the code; it doesn't hide it.
- **Web standards are part of the workflow.** The starter uses semantic HTML, a skip link, and a mobile-first stylesheet. The **Check Links** tool and the alt-text field make accessibility and QA a habit instead of a lecture.
- **No accounts, no server, no database.** Work saves straight into the student's own folder, and nothing leaves the computer unless a student chooses to publish.
- **One template, many pages.** Menus and page layout live in one shared template, so students see why real sites are built this way: change the nav once and every page updates.
- **Grading is simple.** Each student exports a self-contained copy of the site that opens by double-clicking `index.html`. No logins, no hosting, no links to chase.
- **Room to grow.** Plain HTML/CSS first; optional Bootstrap and optional publishing to a live URL for students who are ready.

What you need

- Chrome on a Chromebook, Windows, Mac, or Linux computer for each student.
- The WebHaste Chrome extension installed (on school-managed devices your IT team may need to approve it; see the Teacher Guide).
- The student starter project (`webhaste-classroom-starter-student.zip`).
- A way to collect a zip file from each student (LMS, shared drive, or email).

The core course needs no internet connection. Only the optional Bootstrap and publishing activities do.