TERMS TO KNOW:

URL: the address of a web page on the world wide web. www.CNN.com is an example of a URL

WEB HOST: the place your internet site and files are housed. While this can be free through your district, many people use third party services such as Godaddy or Siteground to host their Web sites.

HOSTING OPTIONS:

Here is a nice resource for other questions you might have when comparing hosting companies. Of course, you can usually Google most questions you have and find an answer pretty quickly as well.

Here are a few hosting companies you can look into checking out. There are countless other. This is just a sampling.

siteground.com

godaddy.com

hostgator.com

dreamhost.com

bluehost.com

lunarpages.com

smallbusiness.yahoo.com

webhostingpad.com

rochen.com

site5.com

Setting up a URL & Hosting Package

One of the first and most basic things you need to do is setup is get a URL (Web site name) and find a place to house your site.

Choosing a URL is one of the most fun things you get to do with a site. It's also one of the most important. Comparatively, looking at hosting plans is a little like comparing cell phone companies. Each offer different benefits -- but most get the job done just fine.

Here, we are going to practice searching for available URLs and comparing some available hosting packages.

To start with, let's take a look at three articles. Click on the headlines of each of these three excerpts to be sent to a URL with the full article.

Tips on Choosing a Good Domain Name (URL)
While this article is a little long, it gives you quite a few things to consider when choosing a URL. There are a number of factors you need to give some thought to.

Web Site Name Too Long? Forward it
URLs should roll off the tongues of students as they walk down the halls. Unfortunately, with some providers (or your district) the URL might not be 'memory friendly.' Don't worry, there is a way around that.

Picking a Place to Host Your Web Site
The files for your Web site all must live somewhere. Kind of like you may have a server where all of your newspaper or yearbook files are, Web sites need a centralized location for files too. There are many factors in choosing a host.

👉 URL: Find One

Let's go shopping for URLs -- well, we will actually just browse a bit. Go to GoDaddy.com and type some potential site names into the "Start a Domain Search" box.

Maybe you're checking on a site name for your school. If you already have one, look for alternatives or even just try searching for personal URLs you could get for yourself.

This is a great activity for publication staffs to do. I would recommend that the staff has the ownership in picking a URL, not the adviser. The adviser can offer suggestions and advise the staff, but give them the final say in which one to choose, it will help give them ownership from the beginning with the site -- and ownership is key for them to see the site as theirs and want to take the reins and update it frequently.

👉 URL: Hosting Companies

There are a list of hosting companies on the left hand column of this sheet.

Please familiarize yourself with some of the different hosting companies out there and what features they offer. Take a look at what some of them have to offer and read reviews on what others say about them.

Briefly compare and contrast features of a couple hosting companies. You should include, but not be limited to: amount of space provided, monthly fee of URL if you host there, email address options, other perks?

Talk to other schools who have sites hosted outside the school and ask them for recommendations on who they would go with and why.