

Using QR Readers in the Elementary School

Schools can use a QR code as a way to bring the technologies students and parents use every day into the school environment. The Quick Response Code (QR Code) is a 2D barcode with square-like mazes that contain information such as a URL to a web address, phone number or even a text message. They are read using a smartphone or tablet app which sends them to specific content. That content can be anything from links to websites to text information.

Even though many of your students don't have smartphones, their parents do. This can be an effective way to reach those busy parents and make it easier for them to help their child with homework or projects outside of school.

Here are some ideas of how you can use QR Codes:

1. Create a Virtual Tour of Your School – here is a Scavenger Hunt example
2. Make displays interactive - By adding QR codes to posters and bulletin boards, students will become more interactive with and learn more and more about the visuals that surround them all year
3. Link books, homework, worksheets or other assignments to online resources such as flashcards, STAAR practice, etc.
4. Explore maps
5. Use QR Codes to Vote or Poll or gather other information
6. Add QR codes to the backs of library books that lead to book trailers.
7. Add QR codes to math worksheets with video tutorials of how to solve the problems. Add QR codes to homework sheets that are helpful hints. For example, if the student forgets how to solve a math problem or gets stuck, they can scan the QR code for help. You can put them at the bottom of the page or right next to the problem. The QR codes can be linked to a 'how to video' such as a Khan Academy video or a Ted Ed video. You could also link the code to text such as the math notes that were given that day.
8. Use as part of a vocabulary/Word Wall assignment
9. School newsletter

*QR codes can be used to share information in other languages as well

There are many other ways they can be used, but hopefully this list compiled from the internet will generate more and more ideas.

To create a QR code, it is very quick and easy.

1. Go to <http://www.qrstuff.com/> - it is a simple creator that is easy to use

The screenshot shows the QR Stuff.com website interface. It features a navigation bar with links like HOME, ABOUT THIS SITE, QR CODES, PHONE SOFTWARE, EXAMPLES, FAQs, and AFFILIATES. A main banner lists services such as Dynamic QR Codes, Vector Or Raster File Output, High Resolution Files, Analytics Reports, Error Correction Levels, Account History, and Batch Processing. The interface is divided into sections for TYPE, CONTENT, FOREGROUND COLOUR, and QR CODE PREVIEW. Red numbers 1 through 5 are overlaid on the interface to indicate the steps: 1. Select a type (e.g., Website URL), 2. Enter content (e.g., http://), 3. Choose foreground color, 4. Select output type (e.g., Download, Print, Email), and 5. Download the QR code. The QR CODE PREVIEW section shows a generated QR code and a 'DOWNLOAD QR CODE' button.

- a.
 2. Select your data type
 - a. Use website URL if you want them to go online
 - b. If you want to share a worksheet, you can select Plain Text
 3. Insert your content – just copy and paste
 4. You can change the color of your QR Code
 5. Download the code once you have selected the download type you can set it to go straight to the printer or email.

If you keep it at download, you will get a .png file that can be copied into a Word, Publisher or other document.