962-L1-63   **Cathy M Frey*** (`frey@norwich.edu`), Department of Mathematics, Harmon Drive, Northfield, VT 05663. *A Website that Illustrates Using Taylor Polynomials to Approximate Other Functions.* Preliminary report.

Students spend so much time learning the formula necessary to calculate a Taylor polynomial, they often lose site of why they would want to use a polynomial to approximate a function. They also never seem to really grasp exactly what it is they have found or how good the approximation is. I have created a Web site, using pictures from Mathematica and JavaScript to illustrate a few common functions, and several Taylor Polynomials for these functions. The url for the site is: http://www2.norwich.edu/frey/TaylorPolynomials/ I have created similar pages illustrating shifting, stretching, and reflecting of many functions commonly studied in precalculus. (Received July 16, 2000)