

SMART Champions

Dietrich School

Dietrich, ID

Around the globe, teachers, principals, superintendents and other education professionals are using SMART products to engage students' interest, support learning and encourage interaction in the classroom. This profile highlights just one example of the many solutions SMART products offer. It's technology for inspired collaboration at its best.

Enhancing Learning with Interactive Technology

In most learning environments, the blackboard occupies the prime location – the front of the classroom. But at one school in Idaho, the blackboard now shares that space with a more dynamic learning tool – the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard.

Media-Rich Teaching Stations

J. Wanless Southwick, PhD, Education-Technology Director of Dietrich School District #314, spearheaded the introduction of

“The SMART Board interactive whiteboard engages the kids in a way that we don’t otherwise see.”

media-rich teaching stations in every classroom. With financial assistance from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, Dietrich School equipped each of its 15 classrooms (grades 1 to 12) with a SMART Board interactive whiteboard, a digital projector, a computer, an Internet connection, a VCR and other digital and video equipment. “Nothing has energized the teachers like our SMART Board interactive whiteboard teaching stations,” says Dr. Southwick.

Technology-Integrated Lessons

With multimedia tools at their fingertips, teachers have found creative ways to use the technology to enhance learning. For example, teachers have taken their classes

on virtual field trips via the Internet and have used SMART Board software’s handwriting-recognition feature to assist elementary students with their writing. By converting cursive writing into block text, young students learn to write in a fun and interactive way. As Dr. Southwick explains, “The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is a powerful tool because teachers can use its large, touch-sensitive surface to control the computer from the front of the class. This makes a significant difference in the way technology is used in the classroom.”

Students have responded with increased attention and participation. Dr. Southwick notes, “One of the biggest challenges for any classroom teacher is capturing students’ attention. The size of the interactive whiteboard and the colorful images that can be displayed have greatly enhanced teachers’ ability to overcome lethargy in the classroom.” Some students have even asked to stay after school to use the interactive whiteboard to work on Math Blaster® software, which incorporates math problems into games. “The SMART Board interactive whiteboard engages the kids in a way that we don’t otherwise see.”

Teaching Transformed

The media-rich teaching stations at Dietrich School are both functional and a favorite learning tool. As Dr. Southwick points out, “Teaching has been transformed in our school.”



Teachers at Dietrich School have noticed improvements in student participation and attention with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.



The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is a central part of Dietrich School’s media-rich classrooms.



Interactive Whiteboards



Multimedia Furniture



Whiteboard Cameras



Software

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SMART Champions Speak Up

"We haven't thrown away our textbooks or discarded our traditional teaching methods. Instead, we're using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard to strengthen our daily program and encourage student participation. This allows students to learn team dynamics as well as new technology."

Lyll Thomson, Principal
Bowden Grandview School, Bowden, Alberta

"Teachers now have better classroom control because they interact with the students rather than with the computer."

James Tearle, Chemistry Teacher
Coordinator and Trainer, Stowe School, Buckingham, England

Visit Some of Our Education Resources

SMART Technologies Inc. is committed to providing tools and resources that meet the needs of educators and students, enhancing learning through technology.

Teaching with Technology

Discover how SMART products can help make your K-12 classroom a more interactive learning environment.

www.smarttech.com/education

Leaders in Learning

Visit our online resource center for practical advice about integrating instructional technology into curriculum.

www.smarttech.com/leaders

SMART Lesson Plans

Find detailed lesson ideas for using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in a variety of subjects and grade levels.

www.smarttech.com/lessonplans

SMARTer Kids™ Foundation

SMARTer Kids Grants

Find out about grants and programs to help fund your technology purchase.

www.smarterkids.org

SMARTer Kids Research

Submit a proposal to research the effects of technology on teaching and learning or visit the online project library to read about innovative studies already completed.

www.smarterkids.org/research

Connections Collaborative Exchange

Learn how students from across North America can interact using donated interactive whiteboards and projectors.

www.smarterkids.org/connections



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