

'As we installed the interactive whiteboards, we saw their benefits, so we purchased more and more, and we will continue to do so until we have one in every classroom.'

– Brendon Fulton, IT Specialist

Interactive whiteboards exceed school's expectations

Kearsney College in South Africa originally added SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards to its classrooms to help instructors enhance their teaching styles and to ensure teaching methods included cutting-edge technology.

But the benefits students and staff have experienced since starting to use the interactive whiteboards exceeded everyone's expectations. Test scores have risen, students are more enthusiastic about learning, and teachers are finding new ways to teach old concepts.

Now, teachers and students at this private, all-boys school want a SMART Board interactive whiteboard in every classroom.

Student performance improves

Headmaster Elwyn Van Den Aardweg says, 'SMART Board interactive whiteboards have made it easier for teachers to teach abstract concepts to teenage boys who are still in the concrete-thinking phase of their cognitive development.'

'One issue the interactive whiteboard has addressed is the need for children to be stimulated in a more visual manner', says Brendon Fulton, Kearsney's IT specialist.

The science department, for example, uses a software package called Multimedia Science School with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Fulton says using the software and the interactive whiteboard together allows teachers to explain difficult concepts visually. This has made lessons more clear and interactive for students – resulting in higher test scores.

'At the end of last year, our matriculation results in science were the best we have ever had', says Fulton. 'Fifty per cent of the students achieved an A, with a 100 per cent pass rate. We believe this is due to good teaching and good use of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.'

Teachers say the boys' level of interest in subjects has increased along with their enjoyment of learning. Students are more enthusiastic during classes and participate more in lessons. Students respond well to the technology and agree unanimously that lessons are now more exciting and stimulating.

In fact, many teachers have noticed a vast improvement in how students respond to specific subjects such as history.

Challenge

Enhance teaching styles by including cutting-edge technology in the classroom

SMART Solution

SMART Board interactive whiteboards and subject-specific software

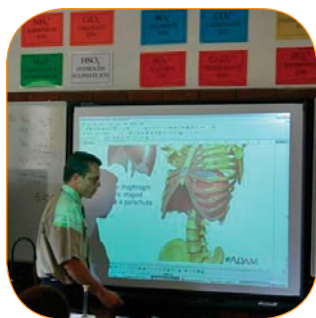
Result

Higher test scores in science and more enthusiastic students

Kearsney College

Case Study, Bothas Hill, South Africa

'We initially bought three to test their viability and productivity. The fact that we now have 16 shows they exceeded our expectations.'



The SMART Board interactive whiteboard has addressed the need for children to be stimulated in a more visual manner at Kearsney College.

'One child commented that history used to be his worst subject, and now it is his favourite!' says Fulton.

Teachers get excited

Teachers in every department use the interactive whiteboards with subject-specific software, similar to what is used in the science department, along with educational DVDs.

Staff say learning how to use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard has been easy, and they are finding ways to apply the features and tools of the product to their subjects.

The improvements teachers see in student learning encourages them to use the technology more and more. In fact, using the interactive whiteboards to improve and advance teaching techniques has become a major trend among teachers at the school.

'Staff, particularly experienced teachers, say their teaching has been revitalized since they

have started preparing and presenting lessons on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard', says Van Den Aardweg.

Equipping every classroom

The school is so impressed with the technology that they have purchased 16 SMART Board interactive whiteboards in just over a year, and they plan to buy more.

Fulton says adding that many interactive whiteboards is a feat, considering that Kearsney is a relatively small school with a small technology budget. The private, all-boys school has 550 students in grades eight to twelve.

'As we installed the interactive whiteboards, we saw their benefits, so we purchased more and more, and we will continue to do so until we have one in every classroom', says Fulton.

'We initially bought three to test their viability and productivity. The fact that we now have 16 shows they exceeded our expectations.'

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is both the industry pioneer and global market leader in easy-to-use interactive whiteboards and group collaboration tools. The award-winning SMART Board interactive whiteboard is the most widely installed product of its kind in the world. It enhances teacher productivity and improves student learning outcomes, and is used in more than 250,000 classrooms spanning more than 75 countries and every Local Authority in the UK. SMART products also include interactive pen displays, interactive digital signage, wireless slates and software. Using SMART products, groups can access and share the information they need to meet, teach, train and present. SMART's education customers include Oxford University (UK), Barnier Public School (Australia), University of Ottawa (Canada), United World College (Singapore), Stephen-Hawking-Schule Neckargemuend (Germany) and Harvard University (U.S.). SMART Technologies Inc. is represented exclusively in the UK by Steljes Ltd. For more information, visit www.smarttech.com.

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