Implementation profile

Dante Alighieri School,
São Paulo, Brazil

Overview of Dante Alighieri School’s Technology Implementation

In 2002, Dante Alighieri School strived to create a more engaging teaching and learning experience and installed its first SMART Board® interactive whiteboard. Now, 10 years later, the school has more than 130 SMART Board interactive whiteboards – one in each of its 115 classrooms and the remainder in computer labs, science labs and music rooms.

The school has also acquired Bridgit® conferencing software, 100 licences for SMART Sync™ classroom management software and two SMART Podium™ interactive pen displays. The implementation of SMART products has increased collaboration amongst teachers and students and it has enhanced learning by bringing interactive lessons to classrooms.

Implementation plan

Dante Alighieri outlined a 10-year implementation plan for classroom technology upgrades. An initial evaluation period, starting in 2002, saw the implementation of a SMART Board interactive whiteboard in the computer lab.

The school chose SMART products because of SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software and the ability that it gives teachers to create high-impact lessons in a collaborative learning environment. “We need to have excellent software to give life to the interactive whiteboard. SMART Notebook software has tools and solutions that really make the difference in classrooms. And that is why we chose SMART products for our implementation,” explains Valdenice Minatel, Educational Technology Coordinator for Dante Alighieri.

School administrators decided to expand the implementation plan after evaluating the benefits of the interactive whiteboard in the computer lab. With the interactive lessons, students had become more engaged and their performance had improved. “As an innovative school, we knew we needed technology inside the classroom, because it is part of our students’ world and their culture,” says Minatel.

Implementation schedule

| Implementation of classroom technology products |
|-------|------------------------------------------|
| 2002  | SMART Board interactive whiteboard (one computer lab) |
| 2002–09 | SMART Board interactive whiteboards (eight computer labs) |
|       | SMART Sync classroom management software (four computer labs) |
### SMART products installed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>SMART Board interactive whiteboards (all nursery classrooms)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>SMART Board interactive whiteboards (80 primary classrooms)</td>
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| 2011 | SMART Board interactive whiteboards (all remaining classrooms and computer labs)  
SMART Sync classroom management software (100 licences)  
SMART Podium interactive pen displays (two auditoriums)  
Bridgit conferencing software |
| 2012 | SMART UF75 ultra-short-throw projectors (30 classrooms) |

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### Teacher training and professional development

*“We want to prepare our students for life...technology is already part of their day-by-day, and we need to think about how it will help to teach the students to learn better.”*

Valdenice Minatel

The authorised SMART reseller working with Dante Alighieri provided teachers with training throughout the implementation phase, showing them how to use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard’s features and how to get the most from SMART Notebook software. The school’s technology department continues to offer teachers weekly training sessions called Plantão de Dúvidas SMART, as well as ongoing professional development.

“Schools that have decided to use interactive whiteboards can never stop training teachers. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is not just a piece of technology, it is a teaching tool that supports pedagogy,” says Minatel.

### Shared SMART Notebook lessons increase integration success

Teachers at Dante Alighieri create lessons using SMART Notebook software and share them with colleagues in a virtual learning environment where they and their students easily access content. This way, they each find new ways to integrate more of the interactive features into their lessons.

### Supporting teachers with responsive technical support

To further support its implementation, Dante Alighieri assembled an education technology department to provide training on how to create interactive lessons, respond to teachers’ questions about SMART products and resolve any technical issues. “It’s important for us to pay attention to what the teachers are saying and what they need. They are the ones who are really in touch with our SMART products and know how they are working, and this is the key to the success of the project,” says Minatel.

### Success measures

With SMART products in classrooms, teachers report significant increases in student interest, participation and performance. The following factors have contributed to the success of Dante Alighieri’s implementation:

- The school has standardised on SMART Notebook software for creating, delivering and managing interactive lessons
- Teachers share SMART Notebook lessons, tips and tricks to help each other continually improve the quality of their lessons
- Teachers are finding ways to save time in lesson preparation – for example, they record their voices and text using SMART Notebook in order to reuse the content in other classes
“The SMART Board interactive whiteboard is not just a piece of technology, it is a teaching tool that supports pedagogy.”

Valdenice Minatel

- The interactive SMART Notebook lessons incorporate videos, images, web resources and more, engaging students, meeting differentiated learning needs and increasing student understanding
- The teachers fully support the implementation of SMART products – an opinion poll was conducted amongst primary teachers in 2009, and 95 percent of them said that they would be unhappy if the school removed the SMART Board interactive whiteboards
- Continuous training on SMART products delivered by the school’s own teachers contextualises the products’ use

Dante Alighieri was the first school in Brazil to earn the SMART Showcase School designation. The school was recognised for the way it is transforming classrooms and improving learning outcomes with SMART products.

As one of the most modern schools in Brazil’s largest city, Dante Alighieri strives to incorporate a variety of new technologies into its classrooms. “We want to prepare our students for life. When they leave school, they will have many challenges and they need to be ready to solve them. The business market is full of technology, and it is necessary for students to become familiar with it,” says Minatel.

With the completion of this phase of its implementation project, the school plans to upgrade existing interactive whiteboards and further enhance classrooms with complementary SMART products and software.