



SPRING
2010

GRANDPARENT CONNECTIONS

Mariners Christian School's Newsletter for Grandparents



SMART BOARDS FOR SMART KIDS

OVERVIEW



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Grandparents, forget about the chalkboard and traditional white board. Say hello to the SMART Board – a large, interactive white board that uses touch technology to manipulate and display information in an exciting and visually interesting way. LCD projectors are used to display a computer's video output onto the whiteboard, which then acts as a huge touch-screen that can be manipulated by students and teachers (some of our classrooms already have LCD projectors).

The interactive nature of the Board provides many practical uses in a child's classroom. Teachers can create unique, engaging, sound-enhanced lessons and link websites, PowerPoint, and Excel to the notebook software. First grade students studying weather can instantly interact with an International Weather Station; sixth grade science students can observe a virtual pig dissection.

The device allows kids to work with large amounts of data and offers an information space that invites active collaboration. Group work becomes much more dynamic, and overall enthusiasm for learning is heightened. The possibilities are endless!

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

"There is a lot of talk about 21st-Century classrooms and individualizing classroom instruction and individualizing professional development for teachers, but the only way we are going to get to a point where we can customize teaching and learning is if teachers have these new tools."

- Lt. Gov. Barbara
O'Brien

"The interactive white board is part of a technological revolution that is changing the face of teaching and learning in the 21st Century."

KEY BENEFITS OF SMART TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:

- Increased student enthusiasm for learning in an interactive learning environment
- Students have hands-on approach to learning; they more actively participate in classroom discussions
- Students grasp academic concepts and events at a faster pace
- Teachers bring subject matter to life through interactive web-sites, videos, PowerPoint presentations, and more
- Teachers can quickly assess student comprehension of a concept. By giving students hand-held clickers during a quiz, answers are instantly tabulated and results displayed on screen

SMART BOARDS MAKE LEARNING FUN

According to an article in The Denver Post, "Teachers say they are more effective and students more engaged with the (whiteboards)." This innovative technology creates excitement and energy for students as they explore academic topics. Teachers can create fabulous lessons that include interactive websites and multi-media components.

SMART BOARDS PROMOTE TEAMWORK

A group project is a learning process in and of itself. The SMART Board allows students to work with large amounts of data on an information space that encourages collaboration. Students work together to touch the board, answer questions, explore websites, and practice skills. This makes reviewing math facts much more interesting and motivating.

SMART BOARDS ARE FOR ALL STUDENTS, ALL SUBJECTS!

No two learners are the same. Because the Board touches the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic, it supports all different learning styles of students. Modern day research shows that many students greatly benefit from a varied teaching methodology, rather than a traditional "teacher-centered" classroom model. SMART Boards can be used in a variety of learning environments and cross-subject areas, including English, math, science, social studies, music, art, and more.



HOW CAN GRANDPARENTS HELP?

Grandparents, you can make a difference! Historically, grandparents have always helped to "make things happen" at MCS. From the playground equipment, to the Performing Arts Department, to advancements in technology, MCS grandparents are ready and willing to invest their time, talent, and treasure.

Our fundraising goal for this project is \$250,000, which will provide funds needed for equipment (SMART Boards, LCD projectors, and accessories), installation, teacher training, licenses, and some maintenance service.



If you are interested in participating in the SMART Board technology project, please contact Head of School Todd Perkins at 714.437.1700, ext.180, or tperkins@mcs-school.org.

According to a study performed by Dr. Robert J. Marzano, PhD, interactive whiteboards used effectively in the classroom assist students in performing at a minimum of a 17% academic learning increase. In classrooms with extensive professional development on the equipment, combined with teachers who have many years of teaching experience, the percentile increase can be up to 30%.



WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

"I am thrilled to see SMART boards implemented at MCS. Having used a SMART board previously in a public school classroom, I know from experience how well they can energize a traditional lesson. Whether it was checking students' spelling, teaching the concept of multiplication, or playing an interactive learning game, the board was an invaluable tool to supplement each lesson. The students were consistently engaged and felt empowered knowing how to use the technology. The possibilities of what you can do with a SMART board are endless."

- MCS Elementary Teacher



Thank You!

Mariners Christian School appreciates the ongoing prayerful and financial support given by grandparents. We value your partnership, and we treasure the unique role you play in your grandchildren's lives on an ongoing basis.

May God bless you in that special role!

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Thank you to the 100+ grandparents who visited for Middle School Grandparents Day in February!