



Kerry Killingsworth uses the SMART Board 690 interactive whiteboard to teach math.

Teachers take learning beyond boundaries using a larger screen

Eighth-grade social studies students at Auburn Junior High School in Auburn, Alabama, are seeing a big picture of the world. They're studying geographical regions on the globe with the help of a SMART Board™ 690 interactive whiteboard that measures almost eight feet from corner to corner.

"The reason I like the larger screen is because in a class full of students there is no problem with anyone being able to see the action happening on the interactive whiteboard," says teacher Kerry Killingsworth.

Killingsworth was one of the first teachers in his district to embrace the latest and largest sized SMART Board interactive whiteboard and he says he can't imagine teaching without it.

The 690 interactive whiteboard features a greater aspect ratio (the proportion between the width and height), which allows a larger image to be projected without compromising its quality. In a social studies class, that means a map of the world can be displayed without losing any distance or perspective.

"It's great for showing widescreen format video presentations as supplemental material for lessons," says Killingsworth, who teaches math at the junior high school.

The 690 offers 33 percent more active whiteboarding space than the 680 model. "Some of the math equations, formulas and diagrams require a lot of extra space," Killingsworth says. "We can use the larger boards without having to readjust or shrink anything down."

While Killingsworth has witnessed how the SMART Board 690 interactive whiteboard enhances his math class, he also knows how the product can energize other subject areas. "Every subject will benefit from the increased size. In language arts and social studies, they use a lot of different diagrams. With the large board, students are able to get a truer perspective, whether it's a map or a picture."

"It's great for showing widescreen format video presentations as supplemental material for lessons," Killingsworth says. He notes that applications like Microsoft® PowerPoint® and Excel® software, and even SMART's Notebook™ software, benefit from the added screen size. Killingsworth also says the "16:9 aspect ratio is ideal for all operating systems," whether a teacher uses Windows® XP or one that is more feature-rich like Windows Vista™ operating system.

The product also features the same functionality and aesthetic appeal as other models in the award-winning 600 series, and is compatible with most 600 series accessories.

Auburn Junior High School began installing SMART Board interactive whiteboards in classrooms at the beginning of the 2005–2006 school year. Today, each classroom in the junior high school is equipped with an interactive whiteboard – half a dozen classrooms have the 690 model. By the September 2007–2008 school year, every class in the district will have a SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

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Kerry Killingsworth,
social studies
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