

SMART Profile

Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake High School



David Besozzi, in Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake High School in New York State, assists a student with a presentation on the Sympodium ID370 interactive pen display.

Interactive pen display enhances presentations and learning

Traditional oral presentations are a thing of the past – at least in David Besozzi’s ninth-grade global history and geography class. As part of a project on urban planning, each student delivers a presentation on a chosen city, explaining all about the city’s history, location and grid system. Using the Sympodium™ interactive pen display, developed by SMART Technologies, the PowerPoint® presentations come to life. Students use colored pens to diagram the various grid systems and they access Google Earth™ mapping service to take the class on a virtual tour of the city.

An effort to energize presentations was the very reason Besozzi, a teacher at Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake High School in New York State, purchased a Sympodium interactive pen display for his classroom. The product, powered by SMART Board™ software, allows teachers to write digital notes on a small screen, while students see the same notes projected on a larger screen. What Besozzi didn’t realize was how much he would use the Sympodium interactive pen display for day-to-day teaching.

“There isn’t a block that goes by that I don’t use it,” Besozzi says. “The Sympodium interactive pen display is without a doubt the best tool I have as an instructor. I can manage PowerPoint presentations with ease, highlight main points on the presentations, and access websites and other digital materials that are shared with students.”

Besozzi was also surprised by how quickly students picked up the skills needed to use the Sympodium interactive pen display’s features for their own presentations. “The Sympodium has already resulted in motivating my students to become more actively involved with technology,” he says. “Rather than being the passive recipients of teacher-controlled technological resources, they have in fact become participants and partners in the use of technology.”

Besozzi chose the Sympodium ID370 interactive pen display, a compact model in the product line. He installed the screen on a movable metal arm that allows him to access the device while sitting or standing at his desk at the back of the classroom. Students can swivel the display for easy access during presentations.

Besozzi appreciates being able to use all of the software features of a SMART Board interactive whiteboard from his desk while projecting the image in a floor-to-ceiling size on the wall at the front of the class. “The larger image allows me to continue to engage all of my students without having to place myself between the projector and the wall display,” he says.

“The Sympodium frees the teacher from the anchor of past practice,” Besozzi comments. “The teacher now has the ability to deliver interactive instruction which truly captivates and engages students, thus improving student learning.”

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David Besozzi,
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