



Teacher Carol Anne McGuire uses a SMART Board interactive whiteboard to help visually impaired students.

SMART helps visually impaired students

Teacher Carol Anne McGuire may have just a few students, but her work is challenging.

McGuire is a vision specialist with Imperial Elementary School in Anaheim Hills, California. She works with nine students, one-on-one, kindergarten through sixth-grade.

"For the students who are low vision, the board is a God send. What I had on my little computer screen was far too small to see," says McGuire. "With the SMART Board interactive whiteboard they have hope."

Half of McGuire's students are completely blind. The other half are visually impaired. She uses a SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard with a Macintosh computer to teach students braille, math and technology.

"The SMART Board helps kids who can't see, see. It really makes all the difference in my classroom because it gives sight to my kids. They are able to interact with the computer in a way they weren't able to before. It's priceless."

McGuire and her students also use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard to edit movies and videoconference with students on the other side of the world. Video and iChat features from Apple let the California students see and interact with students as far away as Japan and Australia.

"This is great for my students because they are able to see who they are talking to. They are able to see for the first time," says McGuire.

Completely blind students use audio or podcasting to help them with the interactive whiteboard.

"They greatly appreciate the sound that comes from the SMART Board speakers, as it is much louder and clearer than the built-in speakers on their computer," says McGuire. "The board allows them to work side-by-side with their sighted peers, as lower vision students can control the board, and their higher vision peers can control the computer – making a nice team."

SMART Board interactive whiteboards have large screens. McGuire's interactive whiteboard measures 66" (168 cm) from corner to corner.

"Before we had to zoom everything up on the laptop, but they never got the full picture. The SMART Board is really a blessing, otherwise they would not be able to see what they are doing," says McGuire.

"One of the things that was difficult on a computer, was moving the mouse around and even finding where the mouse was. Now they don't have to," says McGuire. "They can just touch the SMART Board screen and it does what they want it to do."

Educators at Imperial Elementary school are so impressed with the results that they're purchasing another half dozen SMART Board interactive whiteboards.

SMART Profile Imperial Elementary School

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Carol Anne McGuire,
special needs teacher