

SMART Profile

Bowcroft Elementary School

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Frank Moeller,
teacher

Teachers use new interactive system to connect with students

If you walk into Frank Moeller's class at Bowcroft Elementary School in Calgary, Canada, you hear excited, young voices, calling out German words and phrases like "die Sonne scheint, es ist warm." Translation – the sun is shining and it is warm. This is not your average North American classroom.

Moeller teaches a German bilingual program to grade one and two students, and the Senteo™ interactive response system is helping enrich their learning.

"Senteo is a powerful tool that enhances student learning," says Frank Moeller. "It does this in a variety of ways addressing the learning needs of all students. Students receive immediate feedback and are actively engaged."



Frank Moeller at Bowcroft Elementary School in Calgary uses the Senteo interactive response system to quiz students.

Bowcroft Elementary School is using the Senteo interactive response system with SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards developed by SMART Technologies Inc. Each student in Moeller's math, social studies and science class is given a remote that is a part of the Senteo interactive response system. The remote looks like a television remote control with an LCD screen and operates with a central receiver. Teachers ask students questions, such as multiple choice, and students respond by keying their answers into the device. The results can be displayed on the interactive whiteboard for the class to see.

"They have proven to be valuable learning tools in my classroom. They are used to enhance student learning in all subject areas," says Moeller.

The Senteo interactive response system lets teachers instantly know if students have understood a concept. The software can tally the results of student responses, and a pie chart or bar graph can be posted so the class can review the results. The student responses are anonymous. If many students have answered questions incorrectly, the teacher can continue to review the topic. Moeller uses the Senteo interactive response system to survey students.

"With Senteo teachers have a new and interesting learning tool to help develop tests, surveys, games, lessons and presentations," says Moeller. "It collects immediate feedback and data for the purpose of assessment for learning."

The Senteo interactive response system uses radio frequency (RF) technology, so no line of sight is needed. Students can send responses within 30 meters (100 feet) of the receiver. The handheld device has an ergonomic design, 21 input buttons and a three-line LCD screen that allows students to view questions in a variety of formats, from yes or no, true or false, to more-than-one right answer.

"SMART Boards and Senteo are interactive and add value to classroom teaching," says Moeller. "As teachers we look for a variety of instruction methods and tools to teach, reinforce and deliver in order to address the needs of all learners."

The Senteo interactive response system also increases one-to-one teacher and student interaction and keeps students engaged. It reduces the amount of time teachers spend creating and grading quizzes and analyzing results.

"Senteo adds a new interactive component to teaching that addresses visual and audio learning styles," says Moeller. "It can be used for large and small group learning, teacher or student focused delivery, presentations, lessons, and as a center to reinforce learning."

The Senteo interactive response system is integrated with SMART's Notebook™ software and is compatible with most third-party software, including Microsoft® PowerPoint®, Word and Excel® software, and it works with all interactive whiteboard brands.