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– Tony Trongone, Math Facilitator

Math Scores Grow by 16 Percentage Points with SMART Products

When Tony Trongone joined New Jersey's Gloucester City Public Schools as the district math facilitator, the district was considered "low performing" under the adequate yearly progress standards of the federal *No Child Left Behind* act.

Knowing that the district superintendent, Dr. Mary Stansky, had started an initiative to improve student performance – particularly in math – Trongone approached her with an idea.

He proposed adding SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards and Notebook™ software to Gloucester City's classrooms, explaining that these products would add the essential visual learning element that was missing in the current lessons.

"I wanted to increase the understanding of mathematical concepts and skills by adding another dimension of learning modality," explains Trongone. "Most of the lessons were auditory and there wasn't a lot of visual learning going on." The SMART Board interactive whiteboard added that visual element.

As an Abbott school system, a district in a low socio-economic area, the district receives state funding. With the help of this supplemental funding, Trongone was able to bring SMART

Board interactive whiteboards into 35 of the district's classrooms.

With Stansky's support and commitment, Trongone went to work.

Math scores improve

Once the interactive whiteboards were in place, Trongone started creating math lessons in Notebook software. Then, he posted the lessons on the district's server, ensuring that all teachers could access the files from their computers and deliver them to their students using their SMART Board interactive whiteboards.

The results have been impressive. "We were a district in need of improvement and now we're out of that," explains Trongone. Math scores in the district's middle school have also improved by 16 percentage points.

Trongone reports that the district's geometry scores also went up. "In the state of New Jersey we break math down into particular clusters. In the geometry cluster, the classrooms that had a SMART Board interactive whiteboard did significantly better. I think it's because the interactive whiteboard gave them a better representation of what things such as the transformations of shapes would look like spatially."

Challenge

Improve student performance, particularly in math

SMART Solution

SMART Board interactive whiteboard and Notebook software

Result

Math scores grew by 16 percentage points

Gloucester City Public Schools

Case Study, Gloucester City, New Jersey

“We have 180 days of school during the year, and all 180 days teachers are using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard – every single day, every lesson.”

Unified curriculum created district wide

Along with improving test scores, Trongone says making lessons in Notebook software available for all teachers to use on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard has helped create a unified curriculum throughout the district.

Over three years Trongone has created almost 1,200 lessons focused on math, reading, science and social studies – 140 lessons for each grade level from grade three to grade ten.

Now, teachers use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and Trongone's Notebook software lessons for a variety of subjects, including reading. “We scan the pages of a story, and then students sit around the interactive whiteboard and read the story aloud in class. Or we use streaming video to watch a movie,” he explains.

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Trongone says using the Notebook files with the interactive whiteboards has been a big change in instruction within the district, but it's been worth it. “We've increased our students' capacity for understanding by adding the SMART Board interactive whiteboards to our classrooms.”

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About SMART

SMART is both the industry pioneer and global market leader in easy-to-use interactive whiteboards and other group collaboration tools. SMART products include the family of award-winning SMART Board interactive whiteboards, interactive pen displays, interactive digital signage and software. Using SMART products, groups can access and share the information they need to meet, teach, train and present. SMART customers include NASA, British Telecom, BMW, the Los Angeles Lakers, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Disney Imagineering and Harvard University. SMART products are sold through dealers across North America and distributors worldwide.



www.smarttech.com

Toll-free 1.888.42.SMART
T: 403.245.0333 F: 403.228.2500