

Interactive Tools Open a World of Learning for Students and Teachers in Tatarstan

Second Novosibirsk Gymnasium, Novosibirsk/Russia



At the elementary school learning feels like fun.

The Second Novosibirsk Gymnasium was opened in 1996 by the Board of General Education Department for the Novosibirsk region. School Director, Irina Mikhailovna Mikhno, came to Gymnasium in 1981. The one dream of Irina Mikhailovna was to create an exceptional level of education and personal development for the students under her care: Most Gymnasium students successfully enter higher education learning institutions such as Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk University of Economics, The Academy of Business and Management and several others. During the last six years administrators for Novosibirsk Gymnasium have been especially focused on building the school's IT environment and installing SMART collaborative classroom products in order to enhance the ICT available to teachers and students. "SMART has incomparable functionality. It is easy to use and effective for student engagement," says Fomina Ellina Gennadevna, Math Teacher, Second Gymnasium.

Several significant events allowed the school to improve its IT environment. The Second Gymnasium was named "The School of the Year" in 2003 and received additional funding to support education and health as well as early learning programs. The next school achievement came in 2004 - winning a competition for educational institutions that actively introduce innovative educational programs, as part of the Education Priority National Project. The school achieved the most points for the Novosibirsk region and again received funding to allow the school to continue to embrace technology and digital lessons further. The Second Novosibirsk Gymnasium became a SMART Showcase School in 2011 and is considered one of the most IT advanced learning institutions in the Novosibirsk region.

SMART Boards Transform Teaching and Learning

"In 2006 the first SMART Board appeared at our school and made an incredible impression on our teachers. At that time it seemed like something magical, a miracle!" said Irina Mikhno, Director, Novobrisk Gymnasium. "We began to acquire SMART educational products and at the same time started to prepare

Challenge

To develop The Second Novobrisk Gymnasium IT environment, to increase the learning skills and engagement of the pupils, to spend lesson time the most effective way

Solution

The School uses SMART Board® interactive whiteboards, SMART Notebook™ software, SMART document cameras™, and the SMART Table®.

Result

English teachers noted that students became more involved and enthusiastic about foreign language lessons. SMART education solutions offered the means to learn English and cultural elements in an enjoyable and very efficient way using interactive activities and lessons. SMART Board interactive whiteboards keeps students attention and develops memory skills.

teachers to use them. Within three years all of our teachers had passed the 40-hour course and in 2011 we invited SMART education consultant to hold advanced user seminars." Mikhno goes on to explain that today, SMART Board® interactive whiteboards are in every classroom and teachers continue to discover additional features. They organize open-teaching subject meetings, teaching methods conferences, open classes and willingly share their experience of using ICT in the learning process.

Learning English using the SMART Board®

Kurchenkova Zhanna Vladimirovna, English Teacher at Novosibirsk Gymnasium with 12 years experience, shares her opinion. "All foreign language teachers know how difficult it can be to have a relaxed conversation with students learning a new language. The SMART Board can facilitate certain types of conversations so that all members of the classroom may concentrate on the same item at the same time and conversation may then spring from that." She goes on to explain that SMART Board interactive whiteboards help to enhance conversation. When the teacher is navigating from point to point, he or she faces and interacts with the class. The teacher is able to focus on the student's true understanding and ability to use the language instead of technical issues related to the use of any equipment or teaching aids.

"The SMART Board also supports communication when used in combination with a wireless keyboard. I can sit with the students, reading a text or having a conversation. When new vocabulary is needed or appears, I can enter the new word into the keyboard, and it will then appear on the interactive whiteboard. The awkward situation of having to stand up, go to the board, and write the new word on the board does not occur. By simply typing the new word and having it appear on the board, the conversation may progress smoothly," explained Zhanna Vladimirovna, English Teacher at the School. "At the end of the activity, the teacher can reinforce the vocabulary by underlining, highlighting or circling. If desired, it can be printed for the student and saved for the teacher, so students do not have to write a new word immediately and spend valuable lesson time on such elements."

Alexandrova Natalya Vladimirovna, English teacher at Novobrisk Gymnasium, points out a number of benefits she has noticed while using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard during presentations of new linguistic and cultural elements. She comments that the teacher can prepare a lesson as usual in a SMART Notebook software file, Power Point or Word Document, and is then able to use the features of the SMART Board for the class work. The interactive whiteboard could be used for annotation, underlining and highlighting the elements that should be emphasized. Because the document appears in clear type, it is readable, and it can be saved and displayed again at any time along with changes and new emphases. "It is often very difficult for a foreign language teacher to keep track of vocabulary introduced in the classroom, especially in the more advanced classes," says Kulyabina Irina Anatolevna, English Teacher at the Second Novosibirsk Gymnasium. "Because the teacher is able to save the notes written on the interactive whiteboard, this can help as it allows the teacher to have a record of all of the vocabulary introduced at any given time and promote their reinforcement."

Another activity supported by the SMART Board is the correction of a paper by the whole class. This gives everyone in the class the opportunity to improve their language skills. They may look for spelling or language mistakes and correct them by annotating directly over the document displayed on the board. This helps to give them an eye for the language. They are more aware of linguistic elements when they try to figure out what is correct or incorrect in a language. This activity helps not only the original author of the work, but the entire class as well.



Students became more involved and enthusiastic about foreign lessons.

"Students like to work on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard! They love to use a board that can be operated simply by touch. They may even ask to be quizzed, simply for the fun of writing on the board. It brings true excitement to the classroom,"

Irina Anatolevna, English Teacher at the Second Novosibirsk Gymnasium.

About SMART

SMART Technologies is a leading provider of collaboration solutions that transform the way the world works and learns. We believe that collaboration and interaction should be easy. As the global leader in interactive whiteboards, we bring more than two decades of collaboration research and development to a broad range of easy-to-use, integrated solutions that free people from their desks and computer screens, so collaborating and learning with digital resources are more natural.

SMART Technologies

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