

Interactive Technologies On The Neva

Gymnasium #56, Saint Petersburg/Russia



Students are working together on the report in the conference room - supported by SMART solutions.

The current success of Saint Petersburg's Gymnasium #56 would not have been possible without the vision of its Director, Maya Borisovna Pildes. In 1990 when Pildes began working at Gymnasium #56, it was a shabby, unremarkable grade school with no IT environment and a shortage of teachers. Pildes, who received the title of, "Distinguished Teacher of the Russian Federation", came to the school full of ideas and enthusiasm – she dreamed of creating a modern school with professional training – and after many years of perseverance, this dream came true.

Several SMART Board® interactive whiteboards were purchased with city council education funds. Thanks to the active communication work of the School Director, members of the St. Petersburg City Council learned more about Gymnasium #56, its transformation and the promising results. Council decided to invest city funds for SMART interactive products and ensure the continued expansion of the school so that all students could benefit. Today, there are 106 SMART Board interactive whiteboards, 30 SMART Response™ interactive response systems and six SMART Document Cameras™. All classrooms and students have the benefit of this technology. Experienced teachers at the school organize regular training sessions for new educators and share their SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software lessons.

In 2012 Gymnasium #56 became the first school in St. Petersburg to receive the status as a SMART Showcase School. This designation is in recognition that the school has created an appealing, interactive learning environment that increases student engagement and improves learning outcomes. "Teachers from Gymnasium #56 are very active in their use of SMART products," says Victor Popovskiy, Country Manager, SMART Technologies in Russia and CIS. "These teachers have created a collection of 'Smart lessons from SMART' along with regularly held seminars and courses for educators from other schools and educational centers. We were pleased to announce Gymnasium #56 as a SMART Showcase School as this is a great example how schools can develop learning and teaching processes in a modern and engaging way that has a profound impact on student outcomes."

Challenge

Modernize a large school complex and introduce IT; Improve the learning outcomes of students; Effective and fast assessment of student comprehension for math and other subjects.

Solution

The SMART solutions consist of over 100 integrated SMART Board® interactive whiteboards, SMART Response™ and SMART Document Cameras™.

Result

The SMART Board proved to be effective across all subjects, but especially with difficult topics such as human anatomy which is supported by 3D pictures and other interactive activities. Assessment became easier for teachers: they can check student comprehension immediately using SMART Response. Teachers can adjust the teaching on the fly and be assured that every student in the classroom understands the lesson.

Anatomy lesson

Biology and anatomy teacher, Dotsenko Olga Nikolaevna, has used a SMART Board® for seven years. This is how she summed up her experience, "The SMART Board is a great instrument for every lesson, but is especially effective with difficult topics such as human anatomy. It is very helpful to see and better understand the anatomy through visual and interactive lessons. 3D pictures and other activities give unparalleled understanding of the human body, anatomical structures, major organs and body systems."

Learning about the heart-vascular system is illustrative and clear with the SMART Notebook™ lessons displayed on the SMART Board. Students can see every part of human heart separately, in sections, and even internally. "How blood flows through the heart and how it influences our body's ability to function becomes obvious for students. The use of the SMART Document Camera allows for even greater 3D visualization and definitely offers better understanding for students." says Nikolaevna.

Checking Student Understanding

Math Teachers at Gymnasium #56 use SMART Board interactive whiteboards and SMART Response™ interactive response systems in almost every lesson. These are clearly two of their favorite SMART educational tools. "SMART Response provides everything you need to spontaneously introduce questions to lessons or easily prepare quizzes, tests and exams," says Pavlova Elena Viktorovna, Math Teacher at Gymnasium #56.

The system combines the power of SMART Response assessment software with the lesson-creation tools and features of SMART Notebook software. Teachers create their own questions that are easily integrated into any lesson or assessment activity. Poplatskina Ksenia Igorevna, Math Teacher, describes her user experience. "You can choose from ready-made SMART Response question sets available on the SMART Exchange website, or import questions and quizzes from third-party software applications and question banks. We also create special tests to prepare students for Unified State Exam." Once students respond to questions using their remotes, the results are summarized in a pie chart or bar graph in SMART Notebook software.

The instant responses enable teachers and students to see if the majority of the answers are correct, or if further review is required. By seeing results right away, teachers can adjust the teaching on the fly and be assured that every student in the classroom understands the lesson. And thanks to Teacher Tools, test results are also automatically added to the built-in gradebook and saved in a single file, which helps to organize data. The privacy mode allows teachers to restrict viewing of sensitive information, such as student identification data and test scores. Snezhana Vladimirovna, teaching colleague at Gymnasium #56, explains, "SMART Response system is a very useful tool. I can even create assessment reports that show grades for the entire school year."

School Director Maya Pildes concludes, "A modern school is a school where the director is looking forward to the future. Educational products from SMART allow our teachers to make learning modern, bright, clear and dynamic. They have allowed us to integrate existing materials with modern technologies, to introduce new interactive lesson activities and to get valuable feedback from students. We are honored to be recognized as a SMART Showcase School and to help other educators understand the value working with SMART education solutions can bring."



To date, over 100 SMART Board® interactive whiteboards are installed at the school.

"We always provide teachers with the most modern and comfortable environment to make their work creative and effective",
Maya Borisovna Pildes, Director of Gymnasium #56 of Saint Petersburg.

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is a leading provider of collaboration solutions that change the way the world works and learns. As the global leader in interactive whiteboards, our focus is on developing a variety of easy-to-use, integrated solutions that free people from their desks and computer screens, making collaboration and learning with digital resources more natural. Our products have transformed teaching and learning in more than two million classrooms worldwide, reaching over 40 million students and their teachers. In business, our Freestorm™ visual collaboration solutions improve the way that people work and collaborate, enabling them to be more productive and reduce costs.

SMART Technologies

Toll Free 1.888.42.SMART (U.S./Canada)
or +1.403.228.5940
smarttech.com