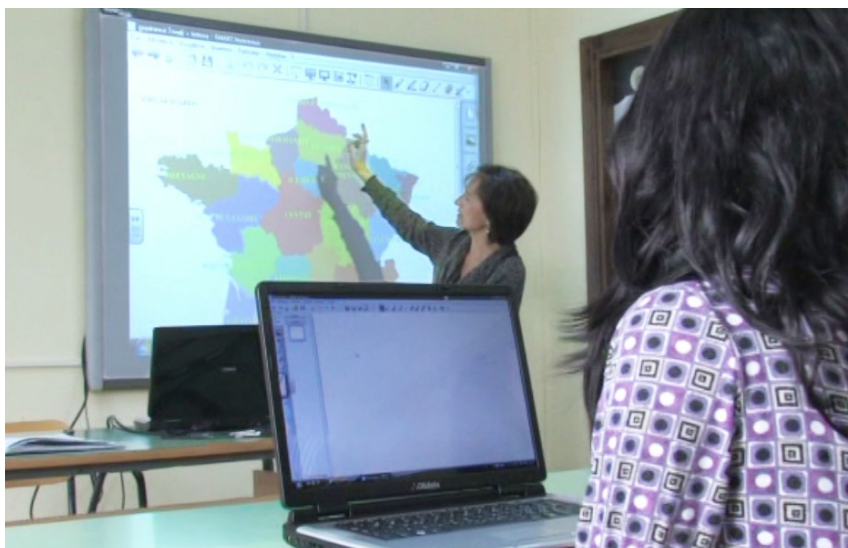


# State Technical Institute Uses Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching

State Technical Institute “Michele Laporta”, Galatina/Italy



Geography lesson – A teacher is using the SMART Board® interactive whiteboard during a lesson.

The State Technical Institute “Michele Laporta” in Galatina, Italy, provides education in accounting, tourism, languages and information technology. With 550 students and 68 teachers, the school has 25 classrooms, three computer labs, a language and multimedia lab, math lab and chemistry lab. To foster technology innovation and enhance teaching, the school participated in the School of the Future project that was launched by the Ministry for Public Administration and Innovation. Istituto Laporta has moved towards an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, which has been supported through the modernization of its systems and by fostering technology innovation.

During the School of the Future project, the school implemented ten SMART Board® interactive whiteboards. Five interactive whiteboards were installed in classrooms, two interactive whiteboards were installed in IT labs, one was installed in the conference room and the remaining two were placed on mobile stands. Since then, the school has implemented three additional SMART Board interactive whiteboards in the multimedia languages lab, IT lab and a chemistry lab. Istituto Laporta is combining new technologies with an interdisciplinary approach to teaching with great success. Recognized as a leader in the use of SMART Board interactive whiteboards, the school became the first SMART Showcase School in Italy in 2009. As a SMART Showcase School, they join over 400 schools worldwide that use SMART education solutions in innovative ways and are eager to share their results and experiences with the education community.

Training and professional development has played a fundamental role in the implementation of SMART education solutions. This has enabled teachers to gain new pedagogical approaches aimed at developing a collaborating learning environment. Teachers have demonstrated a deep commitment to the project. During the initial implementation, 20 teachers participated in the first certified

## Challenge

The school wanted to foster innovation and enhance teaching to effectively meet the needs of today's students to increase student engagement and learning.

## Solution

The school implemented SMART Board® interactive whiteboards, SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software and the SMART Response™ interactive response systems.

## Results

Teachers have taken a technology-rich, interdisciplinary approach to their teaching and students have become active participants who are more deeply committed to learning.

training course that helped them learn how to develop interactive lessons and get the most from using SMART Board® interactive whiteboards. Training has continued to be a priority and almost 80% of the teachers of Istituto Laporta have now been trained to use the interactive whiteboards.

“In the beginning, teachers were a bit concerned regarding how the technology would impact their approach to teaching. They quickly discovered how the technology contributed to an innovative learning environment and increased the effectiveness of their teaching,” explained Angelo Rampino, Head Teacher at Istituto Laporta. Piero Gallo, an IT teacher, led the School of the Future project. He says, “For several years I have been training teachers on the use of technology. When we implemented SMART products, I saw that SMART Board interactive whiteboards offer a higher level of quality than other interactive whiteboards. This enabled us to create a more engaging, efficient and attractive learning environment for students.”

Teachers have been trained on the psychological aspects of teaching and have learned how to create interactive lessons that include a range of supporting tools, such as audio and video files and internet resources. The dynamic lessons are designed to meet the differentiated learning needs of students, increasing student engagement and understanding. “Today’s students learn through sensory inputs such as visual communications, gestures and tactile learning. This is why we completely redesigned our learning environment and teaching methods. We gave teachers classroom technology, such as interactive whiteboards, to help them create engaging lessons that reaches the differentiated learning styles of students,” says Rampino.

SMART Board interactive whiteboards have helped the students become active learners, and they feel that the learning environment has been customized for them. Students are showing a deeper commitment to learning and studying for tests. “For all of our subjects, the interactive whiteboard is used along with additional classroom technology to improve the engagement of students. SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software has been essential in helping teachers develop interactive and dynamic lessons,” says Gallo.

All of the SMART Notebook lessons are posted on the school website so that students are able to review what they have learned in class, or to view classroom materials when they cannot go to school. The school website also hosts targeted forums, personal mailboxes and chat functionality so that students can communicate with teachers at any time. Teachers use the SMART Response™ interactive response system to instantly evaluate their students’ learning. SMART Response includes handheld wireless remotes and intuitive software to view and manage student responses.

“During lessons, teachers can evaluate students in real-time and have one or more students interacting at the interactive whiteboard. This enables them to prepare presentations to support their oral tests,” explains Gallo. “As a SMART Showcase School, we’re eager to share our best practices with other teachers and to foster the sharing of interactive lessons that show how interactive whiteboards can completely change teaching,” says Rampino.

Istituto Laporta welcomes educators who are interested in seeing how they use SMART Board interactive whiteboards, SMART Notebook software and the SMART Response interactive response systems in classrooms to enhance teaching and learning.



Oral test with the interactive whiteboard – A young girl uses the SMART Board® interactive whiteboard during a test.

**“Third-millennium students need to be properly motivated to study and get positive results and SMART Board interactive whiteboards allow us to meet this need in an effective way”.**

**Piero Gallo,**

IT Lab Teacher, Istituto Laporta

#### 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.

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