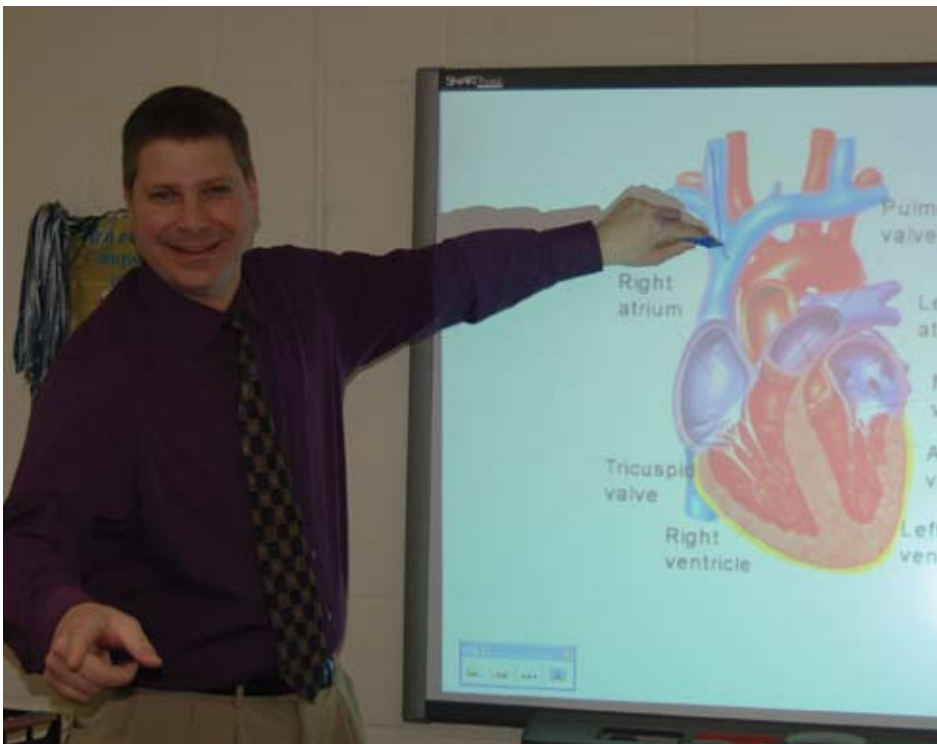


Case Study



Dore Academy Charlotte, North Carolina

SMART products unleash potential energy of science at Dore Academy

When Dore Academy's head of middle and upper schools, Michael Commendatore, walks into a classroom, he can tell simply by observing the students whether the SMART Board interactive whiteboard is in use. "The atmosphere is different," says Commendatore. "The students are happier and the classrooms are brighter. You can see the learning."

SMART Board interactive whiteboards have been crucial to Dore Academy's instructional strategy since Commendatore joined the school in 2003. Dore is a private school for children with attention and learning disabilities, where teachers strive to provide an individualized education for each student. The visual, hands-on approach to teaching, facilitated by SMART Board interactive whiteboards, engages children who have difficulty concentrating on lectures and worksheets. "They're apt to lose focus if the lesson consists of talking, not doing," explains Commendatore.

It is not surprising, then, that the SMART Board interactive whiteboard plays such a fundamental role at Dore. Teachers applying at the academy are expected to embrace technology, notes Commendatore. "When we hire someone, we say, 'This is a SMART Board. This will be used.'"

Interactive whiteboards are now in every classroom, and teachers find that, along with SMART's Notebook software, they are an excellent vehicle for involving students in lessons. They are particularly ideal for teaching science, says Commendatore, who taught science before assuming his administrative duties and remains heavily involved in Dore's science department. SMART Board interactive whiteboards, according to Commendatore, help illuminate both aspects of the curriculum: concrete and abstract.

Challenge

Use technology to make learning environments more visual and active.

SMART solution

SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards
SMART Ideas™ concept mapping software
Notebook™ collaborative learning software

Result

Digital tools help provide individualized education for students of all learning styles.