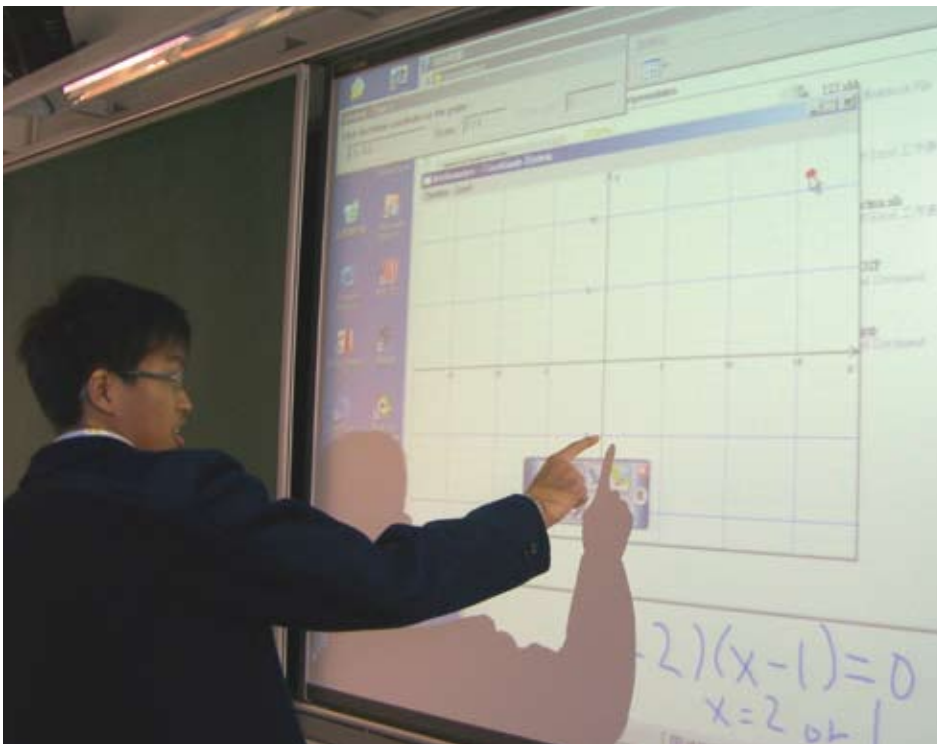


Case Study



Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School Hong Kong, China

SMART Board interactive whiteboards enhance learning and promote IT in Hong Kong schools

Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School is a leading Hong Kong school focusing on the development of teamwork and students' independent thinking and analytical skills. The school seeks to encourage the potential of all its students by giving them an equal chance to learn and excel. It is named after Tsang Pik Shan, the founder of the Heung Hoi Association.

In March 2005, Hong Kong's Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) began the Interactive Whiteboard Pilot Project that provided three SMART Board interactive whiteboards to Tsang Pik Shan, and to nine other select schools. The SMART Board interactive whiteboards were placed in form 1 classes and used as teaching tools for English and Chinese language courses, mathematics, geography, integrated sciences and integrated humanities courses. The SMART Board interactive whiteboards at Tsang Pik Shan will be able to help form 1 (ages 12 to 13) students more efficiently make the transition from primary to secondary school. Through unique interactive learning approaches, teachers can improve classroom attention and participation.

"A common problem in Hong Kong schools is the passivity of students in classroom discussions and related activities. Tsang Pik Shan has been able to increase student participation in classrooms using the SMART Board interactive whiteboards," said Mr. Chor Kam Fai, teacher. "The SMART Board interactive whiteboards have helped our teachers' ability to better explain abstract concepts, present engaging graphics, and reduce their preparation time for new teaching materials, while encouraging more interactive student engagements."

Challenge

Promote technology use in schools while improving student participation and retention

SMART solution

SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard
SMART Ideas™ concept-mapping software

Result

Students have greater understanding of abstract concepts and lesson-planning time has been reduced

"Tsang Pik Shan has been able to increase student participation in classrooms using the SMART Board interactive whiteboards."

Chor Kam Fai, teacher, Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School

Tsang Pik Shan's form 1 students are in an excellent position to take advantage of the improved interactivity enabled by the SMART Board interactive whiteboards. Before installing the SMART Board interactive whiteboards, teachers mainly used traditional blackboards or projectors to present information to students.

"The problem was that it often took a longer time to write everything on the blackboard, particularly a map, graphic or chart. Although projectors can be less time consuming, they don't contribute much to participation and can be expensive," said Mr. Chor. "With the SMART Board interactive whiteboards though, students more easily remember what they have learned during the lesson. Also, they show a greater understanding of abstract concepts."

Part of Chor's role at Tsang Pik Shan is also to promote technology use in secondary schools, and he has found SMART Board interactive whiteboards to be an excellent tool for demonstrating the many potential benefits that technology can bring to students. "Nothing works like actual experience, and the SMART Board interactive whiteboards let students do things and learn more than through regular classroom techniques and presentation equipment. This early introduction to collaborative technologies will definitely give the students an advantage in their future careers," explained Chor.

Tsang Pik Shan has been using three SMART Board interactive whiteboards for a year and a half as part of the EMB program. "We are completely satisfied with the results. In fact, the school recently ordered two additional units to further expand the benefits among our student body," said Chor.

"In addition to the whiteboards, we have been using SMART Board software for in-class instruction and have experimented with a trial version of SMART Ideas concept-mapping software for greater concept understanding and explanations," added Mr. Chor. "Tsang Pik Shan also plans on further expanding our SMART Board supply and trying to use more of its concept-mapping abilities and explore the wireless functionality for improved student motivation in groups."

Diagrams are displayed on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in bright colours, and teachers let the students drag bars to specific areas in the table with their fingers, or freeze movies with a pen tool. Words written on the screen by a finger or pen tool can be converted into a software-supported font. These annotations can be saved in a document, updated for future use, and allow teachers to easily capture the creativity and spontaneous interactions of classroom sessions.



A student at Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School participates in hands-on activities on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard

"The SMART Board interactive whiteboards have helped our teachers' ability to better explain abstract concepts, present engaging graphics, and reduce their preparation time."

Chor Kam Fai, teacher, Tsang Pik Shan Secondary School

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is both the industry pioneer and global education market segment leader in easy-to-use interactive whiteboards and other group collaboration tools. The award-winning SMART Board interactive whiteboard is the most widely installed interactive whiteboard in the world. Many school jurisdictions have standardized on the product, which is used to provide interactive learning opportunities and enhance student achievement in more than 450,000 classrooms spanning every U.S. state, every Canadian province, every Local Authority in the UK and in more than 100 countries worldwide. SMART products also include interactive pen displays, interactive digital signage, wireless slates and software. Using SMART products, groups can access and share the information they need to meet, teach, train and present. SMART's education customers include New York City Board of Education (U.S.), Oxford University (UK), Kobe City Board of Education (Japan), Barnier Public School (Australia), University of Ottawa (Canada), United World College (Singapore), Stephen-Hawking-Schule Neckargemuend (Germany), Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (U.S.) and Harvard University (U.S.).

SMART is a private company founded in 1987. Employing more than 800 people, SMART is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, with assembly facilities in Ottawa, and offices in Bonn, Tokyo, China, New York City and Washington DC. SMART has been issued and maintains a broad portfolio of patents with numerous U.S., Canadian and other patents pending. In 1992 SMART formed a strategic alliance with Intel® Corporation that resulted in joint product development and marketing efforts, and Intel's equity ownership in the company. SMART products are sold through dealers across North America and distributors worldwide. For more information, visit www.smarttech.com.

Phone +1.403.245.0333 • Fax +1.403.228.2500 • www.smarttech.com

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