

John F. Kennedy Centre

Case Study, Hong Kong, China



"The SMART Board interactive whiteboard has definitely aroused students' interests in class participation and enhanced their general attentiveness."

– Wing Yee Wong, Teacher, JFK Centre

SMART Board Interactive Whiteboards Transform Learning for Special Needs Students in Hong Kong

Subsidized by the Hong Kong government, the John F. Kennedy Centre (JFK Centre) is a special needs school sponsored by the Red Cross. The school gives 150 mentally and physically disabled students the opportunity to enhance their capabilities through equal access to education.

In recent years, technology-enhanced education has become a priority in Hong Kong. The JFK Centre is among the first special education schools in Hong Kong to incorporate education technology – including computer centers, multimedia learning centers, and a computerized English language center and library.

Teachers used to use a traditional whiteboard to teach Chinese characters to students, but this method was ineffective in retaining the attention of students. So the JFK Centre installed four SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards. After installing the SMART Board interactive whiteboards, teachers were able to capture and retain student attention. Lesson planning was streamlined as teachers no longer needed to waste in-class time setting up teaching props or materials.

Students can write directly on the durable, touch-sensitive surface of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard with their fingers. This is especially helpful for students with muscular dystrophy who would generally have difficulty grasping and writing with a dry erase whiteboard marker. Now, they are able to get in front of the interactive whiteboard and participate in class activities and lessons.

"The board has definitely aroused students' interests in class participation and enhanced their general attentiveness," says Chinese language teacher Wing Yee Wong. "Students are fascinated by the technology and are very eager to be involved because they enjoy coming up to the board to pick their favorite colors or patterns and write the characters."

The SMART Board interactive whiteboard has been especially helpful for students with visual problems. Using Notebook™ collaborative learning software, teachers can change the background and text colors to create visual contrasts that make the content easier to read. In addition, the easy-to-use text and image resizing tool allows

Challenge

Enhance learning for special needs students

SMART Solution

SMART Board interactive whiteboard

Result

Students attention and retention is improved and lesson planning is streamlined

"There is definitely more vitality and interactivity in the classroom."

John F. Kennedy Centre

Case Study, Hong Kong, China

“Students are fascinated by the technology and are very eager to be involved.”



teachers to enlarge and shrink pictures and text. The interactive whiteboards are also used during speech therapy sessions for storytelling, and for play-based activities.

“I have also been able to use our existing speech therapy software program, Speaking Dynamically Pro, more effectively. Before [having the SMART Board interactive whiteboard], I had to work one-on-one with students on the computer to let them form sentences in sequence, but now I can make it an all-class activity,” Wong says. “There is definitely more vitality and interactivity in the classroom.”

Class preparation has also become more efficient as teachers share and reuse class materials saved on the school server. Online resources readily available on the Internet can be easily incorporated into lessons,

giving teachers more instructional time and enhancing student learning.

“I am very supportive of using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard,” says the headmaster of the JFK Centre, Yuen Bing Wong. “It is an invaluable learning tool that has changed the classroom experience for the students.”



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 330,000 classrooms spanning every U.S. state, every Canadian province, every Local Education 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
Technologies

www.education.smarttech.com

Phone 403.245.0333 Fax 403.228.2500