



Montagu Drive Primary School Cape Town, South Africa

South African students engage in learning with SMART Board interactive whiteboards

Montagu Drive Primary School opened its doors in the sprawling Mitchell's Plain area of Cape Town in 1983. Its 1,041 pupils are drawn from six suburbs in this economically disadvantaged area.

The school strives to give pupils a holistic education. It caters for children from the foundation phase, which prepares them for school, to Grade 8 when they are ready to move on to secondary schooling.

Mainstream subjects taught are Afrikaans, English and Xhosa, as well as mathematics, social sciences, nature science, life orientation, economic and management sciences, arts and culture, and technology.

In 2005 donor funding was secured to establish a computer laboratory at the school to give the students hands-on experience with technology and various software applications. The funding was also used for the purchase of a SMART Board interactive whiteboard which, the school believed, would engage the children more readily in the learning process.

An essay on the school's vision, written as a competition entry by principal Felicity Sasman secured the second SMART Board for Montagu Primary School.

Apart from the two interactive whiteboards, the school uses Sympodium interactive pen displays and four AirLiner wireless slates that enable input to the board's display from anywhere in the classroom.

Case Study

Challenge

Engage students' attention and introduce them to a wider world of knowledge.

SMART solution

SMART Board interactive whiteboard

Case result

Teachers are more creative in preparing lessons and students have expanded their horizons.

Initially the teachers were hesitant about using the boards as they felt their lack of experience with the technology might let them down in front of their pupils. However, after initial training – and sessions where teachers shared their learning experience with each other – they felt confident enough to brave the classrooms.

First up was principal Felicity Sasman who used her Grade 7 mathematics pupils as her proving ground. They were hooked by this approach to learning as attested by their rapt attention to the lessons.

Other teachers' uncertainty also dissipated as they used the interactive whiteboards and found that their pupils' were totally receptive to their lessons, particularly those with audio-visual content.

The SMART Board interactive whiteboards "give pupils the confidence to take part in lessons. They find it easier to express themselves through using the whiteboard," says Sasman. "They become so absorbed in their lessons that it makes teaching a pleasure, and much more fun. The technology is 'cool', so they feel advantaged in being able to use it – something that is important to these youngsters.

"It has opened new horizons for them. Many children do not know much of the world beyond their immediate environment so being able to access information through the internet and bring images and sounds from across the globe into their learning experience has opened up a world of possibilities for them."

The technology has also sparked the teachers' creativity in preparing their lessons and in being innovative in communicating concepts.

The head of the Afrikaans language department created an interactive worksheet for synonyms and linked it to music. When the pupils matched the correct words, a favourite pop song would play. This created excitement and motivated pupils to remember the work taught.

Teachers find that being able to save their work to a flash drive so the lesson is readily available for the next class is a major benefit.

Access to the internet and computer applications means teachers can ensure the content of their lessons is always current. Being able to connect into, and interact with, lessons being taught elsewhere – across the city or the world – is an exciting way to share knowledge.

The school's two interactive whiteboards are in use most of the school day as classes take turns to use them. "They enhance our teachers' lessons, and are especially valuable in being able to use illustrations and sounds to explain concepts," says Sasman. "They are wonderful teaching tools that help us enhance the learning experience."



An interactive worksheet linked to pop songs is used to assist in the learning of synonyms during Afrikaans classes.

"Being able to access information through the internet and bring images and sounds from around the world into their learning experience has opened up a world of possibilities for the students."

Felicity Sasman, principal, Montagu Drive Primary 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 600,000 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), Barrier Public School (Australia), University of Ottawa (Canada), United World College (Singapore), Stephen-Hawking-Schule Neckargemeind (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 1,000 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