A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome

Creating student-centered learning environments is becoming increasingly important in schools. Within these environments, teachers are trying their best to prepare today's students for the global workforce and provide them with the skills required to succeed in a world of ubiquitous technology. One way to achieve this goal is through a 1:1 computer initiative.

In this month's feature article, you can find out how test scores in two U.S. schools have increased since the adoption of a 1:1 program, while in the SMART Showcase School profile, you'll read about a school where students tackle real-world projects with the support of technology and teachers. You also won't want to miss our product spotlight on SMART Classroom Suite™ interactive learning software, a suite combining four of our easy-to-use educational software applications to help you enhance teaching and accelerate learning.

As always, if you have any comments about *EDCompass*™ newsletter or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to newsletters@smarttech.com.

THIS MONTH'S POLL

What is the ratio of students to computers in your classroom?

NANCY'S NOTES

A Teacher's Voice

As I write this, I am in Washington, DC, for the annual National Teacher of the Year event. Not only is this the time when the national teacher is announced, but all of the teachers of the year across the country and beyond are recognized (several other teacher recognition programs are included as well for U.S. territories and the Department of Defense).

Our support of this program for 10 years now has allowed me the great opportunity to meet many of these teachers. I have discovered their passion for education and their desire to make a difference for their students – not just in what they learn, but in the aspirations and expectations that they set for themselves. There is something special about each teacher – a real spark that is evident in their appearance and demeanor.

For me, the strength in the teacher of the year program is that it adds a teacher's voice to the debate and discussion of local, state and national issues. All too often, matters of critical importance don't include teachers and students – sometimes one or the other is added to the discussion, but almost as an afterthought.

At times of transition and evolution, more perspectives and voices need to be contributed and heard so that decisions can be made after fulsome debate and consideration.

You can be sure that the teacher's voice is heard loud and clear at SMART. We know that teaching and learning are evolving, and we are working hard to be out in front with a vision, tools, products and support for teachers leading the change.

You'll learn more in this issue about how we support 1:1 learning environments with the products and support services that we have created. As you consider and examine them, one thing will be clear – the teacher's voice is having an impact.

Nancy Knowlton **is the CEO of SMART Technologies.**

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SMART Notebook™ Lesson Activities

Find a comprehensive database of K–12 lesson activities on the SMART Exchange™ online community. The activities, many of which are standards correlated, are created by classroom teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART Notebook lesson activities during your next language arts, math or science class. We've also included a resource for teachers who want to learn how to create their own activities using the Lesson Activity Toolkit.

ABCs and Words
K–3 language arts students can learn how to recognize, write and read letters as they build their vocabulary.

Elapsed Time
Third-grade math students can learn how to measure elapsed time in one-hour intervals.

Astronomy
Eighth-grade science students can learn about the early astronomers and explore planetary motion, stars, galaxies and universal forces.

Create your own lesson activities
Something Borrowed, Something New
Would you like to learn how to better use the tools available in SMART Notebook collaborative learning software to create engaging, interactive lesson activities? This file includes a review of what's in the Gallery and Lesson Activity Toolkit, sample exercises and lesson activities, and lesson creation tips.

Watch a Webinar on 1:1 Learning

We recently featured a webinar that outlined ways to enhance teaching in a 1:1 learning environment with the creation and delivery of highly visual and engaging lessons. You can watch it now to find great ideas for creating extraordinary learning experiences in 1:1 classrooms. Learn how you can improve student learning outcomes while still keeping your lessons on track.

Watch the webinar now with our complimentary on-demand viewing. You can also visit our website for a list of the upcoming webinars in our spring series.

White Paper on Interactive Whiteboards in 1:1 Environments

Find out what research says about the critical role interactive whiteboards play in 1:1 environments in SMART's white paper titled, "Interactive Whiteboards in 1:1 Learning Environments: Defining public and private learning spaces in the classroom." The paper explores the benefits of products that support individual (private) learning, such as PDAs, student laptops and ultra-mobile PCs, and products that support group (public) learning, such as interactive whiteboards. It also shows how 1:1 environments can effectively engage students in the learning process.

This white paper indicates that introducing interactive whiteboards into 1:1 learning environments increases the likelihood of student collaboration, which is a focus of more and more learning theory. Researchers are also discovering that interactive whiteboards and personal computing devices can be used together to address the need for both private and public learning spaces in 1:1 settings. To find out more, read the white paper.

SMART's Website – Revamped and Enhanced

We've improved our website with a bold new look and enhanced navigation, and it's now open for business! The website has been redesigned to better meet your needs, giving you a fresh new way to access everything SMART. You'll find better organized content, easier search functionality and an enhanced multimedia experience. Visiting the SMART website is now easier, faster and more intuitive.

Visit smarttech.com now, and then let us know what you think. We invite you to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions in this quick survey.

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Win SMART Products for Your School

In last month's issue, we invited you to participate in the SMART Exchange Content Challenge for a chance to win SMART products for your school. We're giving away over 60 products worth a combined value of more than US$85,000.

There are three weeks left to submit your best lesson activities, which will be judged on originality, creativity, presentation and ease of use. The contest closes 11:59 p.m. MT on May 31, 2010.

Find out how to participate!

Share Your SMART Support Stories

Thanks to everyone who has already submitted a SMART support story. You'll have a chance to read some of these stories in the November issue of *EDCompass* newsletter and in an upcoming issue of *SupportLink*, our latest publication that offers support tips and information from our services team.

We're still accepting submissions, and we want to hear from you. If you've had a chance to work with anyone from SMART's services and support team, send us a brief description of your involvement and how our support team was able to assist you.

E-mail your stories to newsletters@smarttech.com, with "SupportLink story" in the subject line. If yours is chosen, someone from our services team will be in touch to schedule an interview.

Wonders of 1:1

Over the past few decades, research has shown that providing individualized, self-directed instruction brings out the best in students. But experienced teachers know that putting this into practice is usually easier said than done. Read the full article.

SMART Response™ Question Sets

Find a database of SMART Response question sets on the SMART Exchange. The majority of these sets include questions that are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets in your next language arts, math, science or social studies class.

Words Beginning with "He"
K–3 language arts students can test their knowledge of words that begin with the letters *he*.

Writing Numbers
Math students in grades 4–6 can test their ability to determine how numerals are written as words.

Concrete or Abstract, That Is the Question
Fourth-grade language arts students can test their understanding of the difference between concrete and abstract nouns.

Geological Time Periods
Science students in grades 7–9 can test their knowledge of geologic eras and prehistoric time periods.

Before the Cold War: the Yalta Conference
Social studies students in grades 10–12 can test their knowledge of events at the Yalta Conference that may have contributed to the start of the Cold War.

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Jeff's SMART Notebook Tips

We often hear from teachers asking how to more effectively use SMART Notebook software. So we went right to the source and talked to the Product Manager, Jeff Taylor. In this regular column, he'll offer tips to help you easily access tools and shortcuts. We hope to ignite an 'I didn't know you could do that' reaction with each issue.

Here are three things you can try now:

Customize your toolbar

When you right-click on the toolbar, a dialog box appears with all the tools available to you. Drag the tools to and from the box and toolbar so you only display those you use most. Then you can drag the tools within the toolbar to order them as you prefer.

Show two SMART Notebook pages at once

Click the dual-page button in the toolbar to see two pages side-by-side on one screen. To return to a single page, simply click the single-page button.

Pin a page in place

When you click the Pin Page button in the toolbar, the page you're working on is pinned to the left side of the screen in dual-page mode. This is helpful if one page has information you need to refer to while you solve problems on the other pages. If the Pin Page button is not on your toolbar, you can add it (read the first tip to find out how).

Nominate a Great Teacher for a Chance to Win a SMART Board™

Do you know a teacher, coach, principal, parent or anyone in your community who has gone above and beyond to encourage a child to embrace the magic of learning? If so, we want to hear about it.

Help us celebrate the influential people in your life or your students' lives who have inspired a passion for learning by sharing your story about them. Send us an e-mail or video, and you could win a SMART Board interactive whiteboard for your school. You can nominate more than one person, and the more entries you submit, the greater your chances are to win!

Visit SMARTloveoflearning.com to find out how you can nominate the great teachers you know, whether they work with students in the classroom or elsewhere. And to see teaching and learning brought to life in a truly magical way, watch this inspiring video.

SMART-Accredited Software

Do you know what programs work best with your SMART products? SMART's Software Accreditation Program includes multimedia content and software titles from companies around the world. Consider the following SMART-accredited title for your next lesson:

Grammar Rulz! by Maupin House Publishing

Grammar Rulz offers engaging daily grammar exercises that also feature historical periods commonly studied in middle school, such as ancient Egypt and Viking times. Four, six-week-long units include mini-lessons that address spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, vocabulary and usage. The CD that is included has SMART Notebook files, which enable teachers to easily display and correct the exercises.

Real Projects, Real Learning at Texas High School

Some days when Jill Galloway, Technology Coordinator, walks the hallways of New Tech High @ Coppell in Coppell, Texas, she feels like she's stepped into the offices of a multinational corporation rather than a high school. Read the full article.

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SMART Classroom Suite – The Power of Four in One

Interruptions happen. It's all part of the ebb and flow of the classroom. Whether you're distributing assignments or managing students, sometimes it can be difficult to minimize the disruptions to instructional time.

But SMART Classroom Suite interactive learning software is changing that. Designed for computer-enabled environments, this integrated suite combines the power of four of our intuitive software applications into one easy-to-use, timesaving product.

SMART Classroom Suite shortens the time between lesson creation and student assessment because it enables you and your students to move through all the stages of a lesson using one intuitive interface.

With the software, you can create and deliver lessons, manage your classroom, assess student learning and enable interactive learning experiences.

Lesson creation

Create dynamic lessons that inspire student learning. SMART Classroom Suite includes SMART Notebook software's rich set of design and delivery features, and its extensive Gallery, so you can easily make your lessons engaging and interactive.

Classroom management

Guide student learning using the classroom management features of the suite. Using the power of SMART Sync™ classroom management software, SMART Classroom Suite helps students focus on learning and makes it easy for you to instantly distribute assignments and links, eliminate the distractions of the Web and encourage students to collaborate with you and with their classmates.

Seamless assessment

Conduct both formative and summative assessments to evaluate student learning and adjust your lessons as needed. With SMART Classroom Suite, you can assess quickly and easily because it includes the features of SMART Response CE interactive response software. Simply create and deliver a planned or spontaneous quiz, and students can instantly respond from their computers – you'll get immediate insight into their understanding.

Interactive learning

Encourage students to interact with your lessons and direct their own learning experiences. SMART Classroom Suite offers the personalized learning features of SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition), enabling students to add their own notes, organize their lesson materials and manage their assignments, schedules and deadlines.

Experience the power of SMART Classroom Suite for yourself – get the 30-day trial.

Fast Facts

- **Designed for classrooms with computers** – Use SMART Classroom Suite in any computer-enabled environment. Whether you have shared access to mobile computer carts or every student has a laptop, you can make the most of the software's flexible features.

- **Collaborative** – Quickly organize your students into groups or encourage them to ask you questions using the software's interface. SMART Classroom Suite enables you to create more collaborative moments for your students.

- **Flexible** – Move from whole-class to small-group to individual instruction seamlessly. SMART Classroom Suite's robust features make it easy for you to support your students' different learning styles.

- **Time saving** – Minimize your application-switching. SMART Classroom Suite provides you with all the tools and resources you need to move through the stages of a lesson. It's easy to keep students' attention, encourage them to collaborate and assess their learning, using a single application.

- **Interactive** – Get everyone involved in the lesson. Students can use the personalized learning features of the suite to take lessons into their own hands, or you can use the software's dynamic collaboration tools to encourage the whole class to participate.

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What Teachers Say

Amy Rothenberg, a teacher at Fort Myers Middle Academy in Fort Myers, Florida, started using SMART Classroom Suite this school year. She says the product has become her number one technology tool to use with student computers, because it's a time saver, a money saver and a life saver!

"I would definitely recommend the SMART Classroom Suite to other educators. First, this suite can be used in a classroom with a few computers or a computer lab with 30-plus computers, so it is flexible. The benefits to students are many, but I think it's important to note that the use of the SMART Classroom Suite can, when used well, save time, money, allow for a few more teaching moments, get the kids interested and motivated to pay attention, and enhance learning in all content areas," Rothenberg says.

To find out more about Amy Rothenberg's experience with SMART Classroom Suite, watch our on-demand webinar.

And to see SMART Classroom Suite in action, take a look at this school in Dallas, Texas, where SMART Classroom Suite is being used in a first-grade language class. Watch the video.

Up Next

Don't miss the next issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, where you'll get a sneak peak at what we have planned for ISTE 2010 (formerly NECC). Read about all our presentations, and find out when we're drawing for prizes at the SMART booth.

Ask Dan

We talked to Dan McMahon, Product Manager for SMART Classroom Suite, about its time-saving, interactive features, and why it's beneficial for computer-enabled environments.

Photo by: Jon Pernul

EDCompass What learning environments benefit from the use of SMART Classroom Suite?

Dan Our customers have told us that SMART Classroom Suite works well in any computer-enabled classroom. These classrooms range from environments where every student has a laptop, to classrooms with access to mobile laptop carts, to traditional computer labs. In any of these classrooms, teachers and students see the same benefit – an easy-to-use suite of products that enables teachers to guide student learning while using technology in the classroom.

EDCompass How does SMART Classroom Suite help teachers move through the key stages of a lesson?

Dan Some of the biggest concerns we've heard from educators about teaching in computer-enabled classrooms are keeping students engaged, using technology to improve learning outcomes and moving between whole-class, small-group and individual learning. We designed SMART Classroom Suite to flow with how teachers and students move through a lesson. With this software suite, teachers can create and deliver engaging lessons to students who have access to computers and then assess their comprehension as the class progresses.

EDCompass Can you provide an example of how SMART Classroom Suite saves teachers time and minimizes disruptions?

Dan We surveyed our SMART Sync customers (SMART Sync software is one component of SMART Classroom Suite), and the result was that SMART Sync saves teachers a significant amount of administrative overhead, which gives them back more time to teach. On average, SMART Sync was found to save teachers 14 minutes of class time per typical 50-minute class. The administrative tasks that SMART Sync helps eliminate include walking around the classroom to ensure students are on task, launching applications on each student device and getting students to type correct URLs into their browsers.

EDCompass How do students benefit from using SMART Classroom Suite?

Dan SMART Classroom Suite helps students become more active learners and gets them excited about lessons. It gives students tools to author multimedia and digital material, take notes, respond to assessments, and tag and organize digital material used in class.

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