

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the February issue of *EDCompass™* newsletter!

The second month of 2009 brings with it a new U.S. president and new opportunities in education. In keeping with the occasion, we are exploring new possibilities for you and your students in this best practices issue of the newsletter. We've peppered the pages with tips and ideas from educators who are using classroom technology to maximize student outcomes. On [page 2](#), you can learn how to use advanced layering techniques in SMART Notebook software. Go to [page 3](#) to watch a video tutorial on the Senteo™ interactive response system. And on [page 4](#), find out how a school in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is using SMART products to enhance language and math skills. We hope this issue will spark new ideas that will inspire and engage both you and your students.

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

NANCY'S NOTES

Transforming

Back in the mid-1800s, a key breakthrough was made in education when the small slates that individual students used were scaled up to a full-sized blackboard placed at the front of the classroom for the teacher. Up to that point, teachers had been relegated to working with individual students in their multi-age classes. Within 10 years, almost every classroom in Upper Canada (now Ontario) included this new tool, and a transformation in teaching was underway there and across North America.



Today, we are on the cusp of a similar transformation through the adoption of interactive whiteboards and other interactive products. About 20 percent of classrooms in North America have interactive whiteboards installed, which means we are at a tipping point. With the imminent enactment of the high-profile stimulus package legislation in the United States, we are marching to full adoption in every classroom.

Some things can only be done when a critical mass is reached. When adoption is broad, continuous professional development and professional learning communities within each school can be established. High-quality content and resources across all subjects and grade levels become more readily available, and opportunities for principals to access professional development also increase.

With a critical mass of interactive whiteboards in schools, the exploration of new teaching and learning environments can be undertaken in earnest as excitement about the new possibilities extends to all teachers, researchers and faculties of education.

This is an exciting time for education. The funding under debate in the United States can both stabilize education and transform it. The circumstances that provoke this promising, profound change are challenging, but out of this trouble can come much good for students and teachers.

Transformation isn't the end but rather the route to the end – namely better student outcomes, both at the system and individual level.

[Nancy Knowlton](#) is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

SMART Notebook lesson activities



Find a comprehensive database of professionally developed [K–12 lesson activities](#) on our education website. The lessons are correlated to local curriculum standards and created by classroom teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART-created lesson activities during your next art or English class.

NOTE: You must have SMART Notebook 10 software to download these lesson activities. SMART Notebook 10 is available for Linux®, Windows® and Mac operating systems. [Upgrade your software.](#)

[Learning Colors](#)

K–3 students can learn about simple color theory and discover how to identify colors.

[Personal Pronouns](#)

English students in grades 7–9 can learn about pronouns and practice correct usage.

SMART Notebook tip – layering part two

See Joe Scrivens, a SMART curriculum resource developer, demonstrate advanced layering techniques in SMART Notebook. In this five-minute video on SMART's YouTube channel, Joe provides step-by-step instructions to help you create dynamic lesson activities. [Watch the video](#), and use this feature in your next lesson.

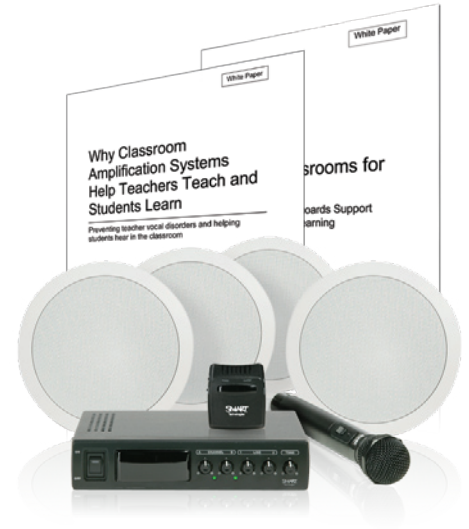
If you missed it, the first layering video was featured on page 2 of the [November issue](#) of the newsletter.

New white papers from SMART

Take a look at three of our latest white papers. You can learn how interactive whiteboards support universal design for learning and 1:1 learning environments. You'll also find out why classroom amplification systems are helping teachers teach and students learn.

Classroom amplification systems benefit teachers and students

"Why Classroom Amplification Systems Help Teachers Teach and Students Learn" explores how teachers and students are affected by noise in their teaching and learning spaces. It explains how elements like building design, classroom size and reverberation can all have a negative impact on how well a teacher's voice carries throughout the room.



The white paper reveals that classroom amplification systems help not only students with auditory problems but also students without hearing impairments. It references numerous studies that show how these systems improve standardized test scores, decrease referrals to special education services, improve reading fluency and literacy skills, increase participation and on-task behavior, improve attentiveness, and reduce teacher absences due to vocal strain and related ailments. [Read the white paper](#) and visit our website to learn more about [SMART Audio](#), SMART's classroom amplification system.

Interactive whiteboards meet the needs of diverse classrooms

"Creating Classrooms for Everyone" outlines how interactive whiteboards support universal design for learning (UDL). It includes a seven-step checklist to help educators evaluate which interactive whiteboards will best enable them to respond to the needs of today's students.

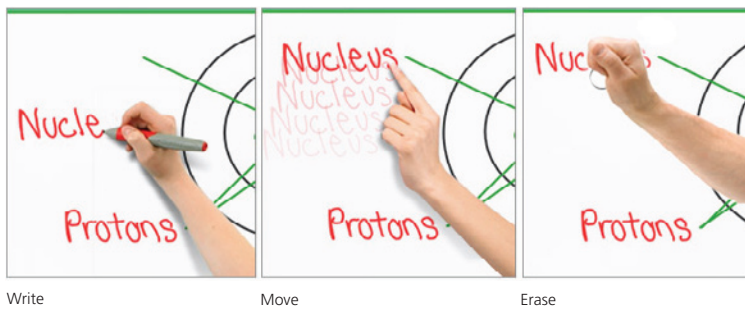
The white paper examines the establishment of UDL standards and shows how they can be used to guide the evaluation and use of interactive whiteboards in schools. The ways interactive whiteboards differentiate learning, accommodate learners with special needs and provide digital tools for digital natives are explored in detail. [Read the white paper.](#)

One-to-one learning supported by interactive whiteboards

"Interactive Whiteboards in 1:1 Learning Environments" examines the crucial role interactive whiteboards can play in 1:1 classrooms, where personal computing devices such as PDAs and tablet PCs are used. Researchers have found higher and more equitable participation rates among students in environments that use these devices in conjunction with large, shared displays such as interactive whiteboards.

Citing research from the United Kingdom, the authors conclude that when used together, the interactive whiteboard and the personal computing device help define individual, small-group and whole-class workspaces. The result is improved self-directed learning, better collaboration in small groups and a richer classroom environment, where sharing, evaluation and discussion are the norm. [Read the white paper.](#)

Touch Recognition



We're excited to announce one of SMART's newest innovations – [Touch Recognition](#). This feature has made the SMART Board™ 600 series interactive whiteboard the first to automatically detect the difference between a pen, a finger and the palm of a hand. Teachers and students can now use a pen to write or draw on the interactive whiteboard, a finger to manipulate words or pictures, and a palm to erase work – all without having to press buttons or replace tools in the Pen Tray. Touch Recognition means that interacting with your SMART Board interactive whiteboard more closely resembles the way you and your students use traditional whiteboards and chalkboards, making the board even easier to use. [Watch this video](#) to see how it works.

SMART Table now shipping

Last month's [feature article](#) on the SMART Table described how students at Killarney Elementary School in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, are using their SMART Table beta unit. Now you can watch these energized students build brain connections and knowledge through touch. [View the video](#).

The SMART Table is now available! [Find out](#) how to order it for your classroom.

FEATURE ARTICLE

It's all about the learner



When Nancy Knowlton, SMART's CEO, came up with the idea for the Connections program a decade ago, one of her priorities was to move sixth-grade students and their teachers beyond the boundaries of their classroom walls. Even with this lofty aim, she might not have anticipated that five years after taking part in Connections, O'Neill students Jenna Fernau and Kelsey Mundhenke would still be actively communicating with many of the participants they met in person back in 2004. [Read the full article](#).

Senteo question sets



Find a database of [Senteo question sets](#) on our education website. Each set includes 10 questions that are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards and are compatible with a matching SMART-created lesson activity on the same topic.

Try one of the following Senteo question sets in your next social studies and science class.

[Latitude and Longitude](#)

Social studies students in grades 4–6 can test their knowledge of latitude and longitude.

[Ecosystems Vocabulary](#)

Science students in grades 7–9 can test their knowledge of vocabulary and definitions related to ecosystems.

[See Senteo in action](#)

Watch Joe Estephan, a sixth-grade teacher at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, demonstrate how he uses the Senteo interactive response system in his math class.

In this nine-minute YouTube video, Joe gives step-by-step instructions for creating, delivering, managing and evaluating a Senteo quiz. As the video shows, using the Senteo interactive response system enables Joe to quickly assess how well his class has grasped a concept and determine in which areas his students need more instruction.

[Watch the video](#).

Teacher-created lesson activities



You can create your own SMART Notebook lesson activities and share them on the [SMART Exchange](#). That's what Kyle Stevens did.

Kyle is an educator at Bishop Dunne Catholic School in Dallas, Texas. In his lesson activity, students are introduced to the TP-CASTT method of poetry analysis, which teaches them to break down a poem into seven elements: title, paraphrase, connotation, attitude, shift, title interpretation and theme. For each of these individual elements, groups of students are given about two minutes to come up with ideas, and then one member of each group uses the SMART Board interactive whiteboard to share an answer with the class. This activity also includes a Senteo question set that reviews poetry terms. [View the lesson activity](#) on the Exchange, and test it out with your English students.

Learn and share with your peers

On Saturday, March 7, 2009, The Tatnall School in Wilmington, Delaware, is hosting a one-day conference for users of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Registered guests will meet other teachers who use SMART Board interactive whiteboards and learn how to create interactive SMART Notebook lesson activities for the 21st-century classroom. Attendees can share best practices, collaborate and exchange ideas while discovering new ways to engage students and improve learning outcomes. [Find out more.](#)

SMART Mobile Stand for interactive displays

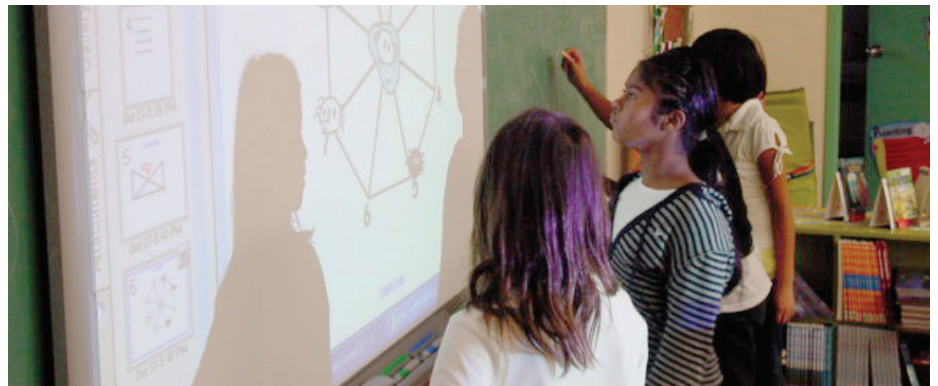


Do you have a SMART Board interactive display in your classroom or school? Imagine being able to reconfigure your classroom for small-group work or create learning areas in nontraditional spaces by simply moving your interactive display. The SMART Mobile Stand for interactive displays makes it easy.

Combining strength and stability, the SMART Mobile Stand was specifically designed to add mobility to SMART Board interactive displays measuring 50" to 65" (127 cm to 165.1 cm). It has a height-adjustable range of 15" (38 cm) up or down to accommodate use by people of different heights. Plus, its versatility makes it especially user-friendly for special-needs students.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

SMART products help Toronto school celebrate diversity



Students at [Joyce Public School](#) speak many different languages, but technology is something they all understand. So teachers have discovered some innovative ways to use SMART products to enhance language and math skills.

Joyce Public School is located in a low-income neighborhood of Canada's largest city, Toronto, Ontario. The elementary school has a strong commitment to technology and a history of innovation. As a result, the school is experiencing significant academic success, especially in mathematics. [Read the full article.](#)

The SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system – a new generation of flexibility

In 2006, we introduced you to the 600i, an all-in-one SMART Board interactive whiteboard system specifically designed to add flexibility to teaching.

As soon as it entered classrooms, teachers began telling us how the 600i's integrated features were helping them save time and easily blend videos, podcasts and photos into their lessons.

Why do teachers like it so much? The 600i combines a SMART Board interactive whiteboard, a built-in projector and an extended control panel that allows you to instantly access, control and switch between all your multimedia devices. You can show documentaries, play speeches and display websites without having to grapple with cords, wires and remote controls.

Meet the latest version

Inspired by the feedback we received about the first two generations of the 600i, we are proud to introduce our third-generation system, which offers you more security, more flexibility and more space. The enhancements we've made not only make the 600i easier to teach with, but also reduce the time you have to spend maintaining and protecting it.

The new 600i addresses recent technological advancements – for instance, we now offer a wide-format option, so you have 20 percent more working space and can effectively use wide-screen laptops and monitors with the system.

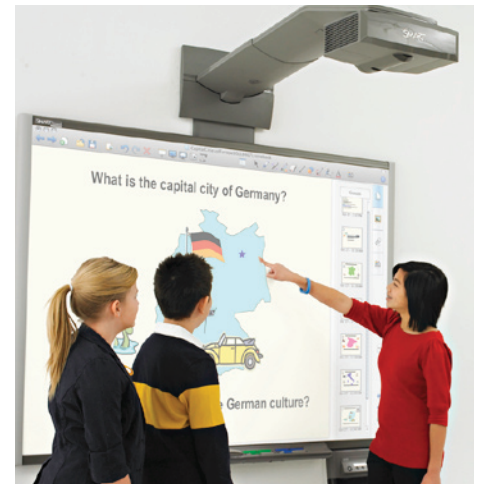
The system's projector has undergone some improvements as well. The UF55 offers the best projected image of any interactive whiteboard system. No matter what you are showing on your board, it will look clear and crisp to your students. And we've made the UF55 network enabled so you can control and manage it remotely.

Our product development team has also added more security, protection and maintenance features to make managing the system as simple as possible.

To learn more about the third-generation 600i, keep reading, and then visit the [600i product page](#).



Fast facts



- **Clear and bright** – The UF55 projector features the best projected image of any interactive whiteboard system. Images and videos look crisp from anywhere in the room.
- **Quick and easy** – The system starts up in 10 seconds with the simple push of a button
- **Flexible** – The extended control panel gives you centralized control over your multimedia devices, such as document cameras, laptops and DVD players
- **Networked** – The projector can be connected to your school's IP network and controlled and managed remotely
- **Spacious** – The 600i is available in a wide-screen option, giving you 20 percent more working space
- **Protected** – The system's theft-resistant features make it a less attractive target for thieves. The projector is rendered inoperable if removed from the system, while the Kensington® lock slot and projector padlock loop act as additional deterrents.
- **Engaging** – The system comes with award-winning SMART Notebook software
- **Economical** – With the 600i, you have access to extraordinary features at an affordable price

A closer look at wide-screen

Lately, it seems everything is growing wider – laptops, televisions and computer monitors. The trend of adopting wide-screen devices is quickly catching on in schools, as educators see the benefits of technology that grows bigger without growing taller.

We launched our 87" (221 cm) wide-format SMART Board 685 interactive whiteboard last year, so that teachers using 16:9 and 16:10 aspect ratio projectors and computing devices had an interactive whiteboard to meet their needs.

Now, for the first time, our integrated system is also offered in a wide-format model, the 685i3. You can attach a high-definition (HD) camcorder, Blu-ray Disc™ player or wide-screen laptop to the extended control panel to give your students a true-to-life multimedia experience, without the distractions of letterboxing or distortion.

If you like to have extra room for lessons, the 685i3 gives you 20 percent more working space. It's perfect for teachers who like to show documentaries in HD, use the Dual Page Display in SMART Notebook software or show multiple items on their SMART Board interactive whiteboards at the same time.

Up next

If you're a math teacher, you won't want to miss the next issue of EDCompass newsletter. It will be filled with

information about all of SMART's math resources and offerings, along with tips and best practices from math teachers who use SMART products. You'll also find out about the new math tools that will soon be available in SMART Notebook software.



Ask Jarrod

Jarrod Thorne is the product manager for the 600i. We asked him about the improvements made to the third-generation system.

EDCompass: What led SMART to introduce a new generation of the 600i?

Jarrod: When we created the third-generation 600i, we were inspired by SMART's goal to provide innovative products for teachers and students. We wanted to evolve our successful second-generation 600i to include new features that educators would love.

EDCompass: How did teacher feedback about the first two generations of the 600i have an impact on this new system?

Jarrod: The improvements we made drew on educators' ideas about usability, maintenance and total cost of ownership. For example, they told us we could improve their experience by further reducing glare and shadows, so we created a new design with a shorter-throw integrated boom and projector.

EDCompass: Have you updated the appearance of the 600i?

Jarrod: Yes, it has a sleek new look that we're very excited to introduce to the 21st-century classroom.

EDCompass: What other enhancements were made to the third-generation system?

Jarrod: Among many innovative new features, we've added a wide-screen system for more workspace, made the projector more theft- and damage-resistant and improved the lamp life. We've also added networking capability to the UF55 projector, so it can now become part of a managed school network.

EDCompass: Why would schools choose the wide-format option?

Jarrod: The wide-screen system provides more horizontal, reachable workspace for teaching and learning. It's compatible with today's leading-edge applications and is ideal for classrooms with wide-screen monitors and laptops.

