

# EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

[education.smarttech.com](http://education.smarttech.com)

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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

### Welcome to the FETC 2009 edition of EDCompass™ newsletter!

The Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) is just days away. This issue of the newsletter will tell you what you need to know to make the most of your time with SMART at FETC. You'll find a schedule of our stage presentations and daily prize giveaways, and you'll learn about some of our latest innovations that we've brought to show you. And to discover more about SMART Sync 2009, the latest version of our classroom management software, read the product spotlight on [pages 6 and 7](#).

Have you already subscribed to this free, monthly e-newsletter from SMART? If not, it's easy to sign up on our website at [education.smarttech.com/subscribe](http://education.smarttech.com/subscribe).

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](mailto:education@smarttech.com).

## NANCY'S NOTES

### Speaking of investing

From recent conversations I've had with administrators and teachers in the United States, I know educators are worried about what the future holds beyond this budget year. Public announcements of cutbacks have been prominently featured lately, and though many administrators remain confident about funding for the current fiscal year, they are concerned about the next.



Given these circumstances, it's high time that issues around education funding were laid out for discussion and debate by all concerned, not just those in the business of education. We could start by considering the following:

- Why is education funded at the district level, rather than at the state or federal level? Would a per-student state funding model blur or even eradicate the distinction between have and have-not schools – at least in terms of public funding sources?
- What is the appropriate amount of time over which administrators should have budget visibility? Is year-to-year really the only way to go?
- While everyone agrees that student outcomes are the primary focus of the education system, a certain level of input or investment is required. How can funding priorities be established without undue consideration of whether times are good or bad?

Money is always a controversial topic because there isn't an unlimited supply. Making choices is hard. But it's better to talk about the elephant in the room than just ignore it and hope that everything works out. Investing for the long term takes vision, commitment and healthy discussion and debate.

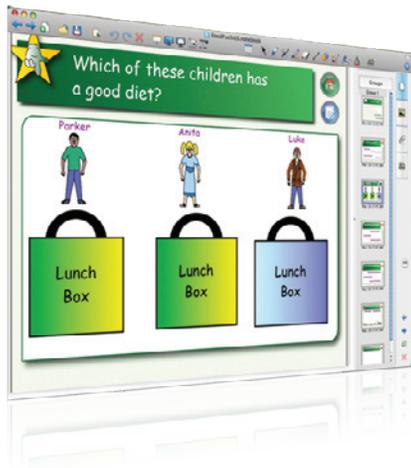
You'll see the results of our investment decisions on display at trade shows and in announcements over the coming months. We listened to customer input and worked hard to anticipate needs and requirements – with the goal of delivering powerful tools to help in technology-enabled 21st-century classrooms. We hope you will appreciate what you see and experience.

All the best in 2009.

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

## CLASSROOM CONTENT

# SMART Notebook lesson activities



Find hundreds 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 science, math or geography class.

**Note:** You must have SMART Notebook software 10 to download these lesson activities. [Upgrade your software.](#)

### [Food Fuels](#)

K-3 science students can learn which foods they need for energy and which foods help them grow. Students can sort a variety of different foods into these two categories.

### [Flip Images](#)

Math students in grades 4-6 can learn about flip images, finding out how to record the vertex, its flip image location and its mirror line. They can then practice drawing the flip image of various polygons.

### [Population](#)

Geography students in grades 10-12 can find out which parts of the world are densely populated and why.

## NEWS

# Visit us at FETC

January 21-24, 2009  
Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando, Florida  
SMART booth 1401



SMART is excited to be at FETC again this year – we hope you can stop by our booth to say hello! When you're there, you can learn about some of our latest products and services, win prizes and hear presentations on a variety of technology topics.

If you're attending the conference, carry this list of SMART's presentations and prize giveaways so you can attend the sessions that interest you and ensure you're at our booth when we're giving away free prizes.

## SMART booth presentations

### Thursday, January 22

- 5:00 p.m. SMART Table
- 5:30 p.m. SMART Classroom Suite
- 6:00 p.m. SMART Notebook math content
- 6:30 p.m. SMART Learning Marketplace
- 6:50 p.m. Daily prize draw

### Friday, January 23

- 9:30 a.m. SMART Sync 2009
- 10:00 a.m. Meet a SMART Exemplary Educator
- 10:30 a.m. SMART Table
- 11:00 a.m. Senteo™ assessment software 2.0
- 11:30 a.m. SMART Learning Marketplace
- 12:00 noon Meet a SMART Exemplary Educator
- 12:30 p.m. SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard basics
- 1:00 p.m. SMART Notebook software 10
- 1:30 p.m. Florida curriculum solutions
- 2:00 p.m. SMART Sync 2009
- 2:30 p.m. SMART Table
- 3:00 p.m. SMART Notebook math content
- 3:30 p.m. Meet a SMART Exemplary Educator
- 4:00 p.m. Senteo assessment software 2.0
- 4:30 p.m. SMART Notebook SE
- 5:00 p.m. SMART Classroom Suite
- 5:30 p.m. SMART Learning Marketplace
- 6:00 p.m. Daily prize draw

### Saturday, January 24

- SMART Classroom Suite
- SMART Notebook software 10
- SMART Notebook math content
- Senteo assessment software 2.0
- SMART Learning Marketplace
- SMART Table
- SMART Board interactive whiteboard basics
- SMART Sync 2009
- SMART Notebook SE
- Florida curriculum solutions
- Daily prize draw

## Win prizes at the SMART booth

During FETC, you'll have many opportunities to win prizes from SMART. Here are just a few:

### Wear a SMART T-shirt and win!

All FETC attendees will receive a T-shirt-shaped handout from SMART in their conference bag. Fill it out and bring it to the SMART booth to receive a free SMART T-shirt. If you're spotted wearing it on the trade show floor, you could win a SMART Board interactive whiteboard. The more you wear your shirt, the more chances you'll have to win!

### SMART Notebook SE USB bracelet

SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition) is now available on a convenient USB silicon bracelet. When you attend a booth presentation on SMART Notebook SE, you can walk away with your own plug-in-and-go USB bracelet that's loaded with the beta version of the software.



The bracelet offers your students portable interactive learning software that complements SMART Notebook. They can plug the bracelet into any computer, complete their assignments and save their work to a single, portable USB key with 2 GB of space. The bracelets are currently compatible with the Windows® operating system – a Mac version and cross-platform version are currently under development.

### SMART Notebook math content CD

If you're a math teacher, you won't want to miss the SMART Notebook math content presentation. Attendees will receive a free CD loaded with math content to use with their SMART products (while quantities last).

## FEATURE ARTICLE

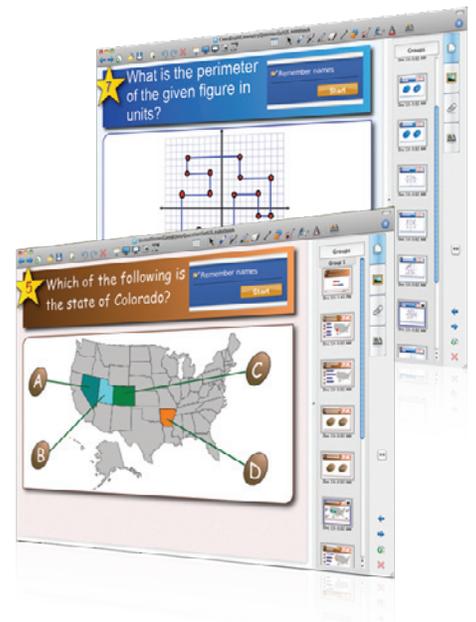
## Learning through touch



Sehrab and Joseph are two first-grade students in Heather Lister's multi-aged primary classroom in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. They don't really care that a team of visionary people from various departments at SMART Technologies worked hard to put this [SMART Table](#) into their Montessori classroom. They're not concerned about the engineers who spent long hours creating the software that makes this table respond to little fingers. And their curiosity likely wouldn't be piqued by the designers who made prototype tables for many years until, finally, the product was ready for Killarney Elementary School.

Sehrab and Joseph are far too busy trying out the SMART Table. [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 local curriculum standards and are compatible with a matching SMART-created lesson activity on the same topic.

Try one of the following Senteo question sets with your language arts, social studies or math students.

### [Fact or Opinion: Do You Know the Difference?](#)

Language arts students in grades 2–4 can test their ability to differentiate between a fact and an opinion.

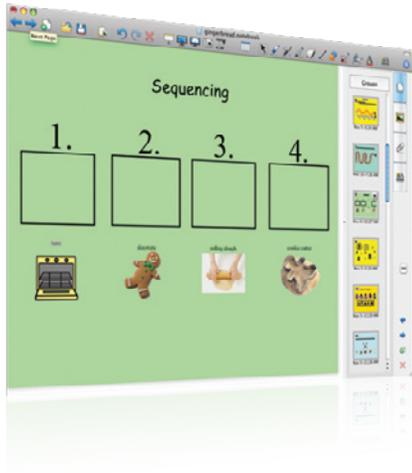
### [United States Geography Quiz](#)

Social studies students in grades 4–6 can test their ability to identify various U.S. states.

### [Coordinate Geometry](#)

Math students in grade 7–9 can test their ability to calculate the area and perimeter of shapes.

## Teacher-created lesson activities



You can create your own SMART Notebook lesson activities with the [Lesson Activity Toolkit](#) and share them on the [SMART Exchange](#). That's what Jennifer Frazier and Leslie Stevens from Berkeley County, South Carolina, did.

Jennifer is an occupational therapist and uses the SMART Board interactive whiteboard as a therapy tool for her students. Leslie works with preschool children who have special needs requirements and incorporates SMART Notebook software into her daily classroom routines. Their lesson activity, titled Gingerbread Man, is ideal for special education students in K–2 classrooms. [View the lesson activity](#) on the Exchange, and test it out with your students.

### SMART Notebook tip – Cloze procedure

See Joe Scrivens, one of SMART's curriculum resource developers, demonstrate how to make a cloze procedure activity in SMART Notebook software, and then use a drag-and-drop technique to reveal the answers.

In this 10-minute video on SMART's YouTube channel, Joe provides step-by-step instructions to help you create dynamic lesson activities on Mac and Windows operating systems. [Watch the video](#), and use this feature in your next language arts lesson.

## What's new from SMART at FETC



Since 1991, SMART products have been changing the way students learn. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard was the first on the market, and it continues to lead the way in quality, design and performance. And our innovations just keep coming.

Read below about some of the new products and software you can find at our FETC booth. Then be sure to drop by to talk with SMART staff about all our education solutions.

### SMART Classroom Suite

[SMART Classroom Suite](#) is the first interactive learning software suite designed specifically for teachers and students. It enables collaboration and assessment in the classroom and provides the tools necessary for students to guide their own learning. The suite includes SMART Notebook 10, SMART Sync 2009 (our latest version of SynchronEyes™ classroom management software), SMART Notebook SE and soon-to-be-released SMART Response 2009 assessment software (based on our Senteo interactive response system). Check out the product spotlight on [pages 6 and 7](#) to learn more about SMART Sync.

### Third-generation SMART Board 600i

The latest version of the [SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system](#) delivers the ultimate walk-up-and-use experience. The system is now available in two formats – wide screen (16:10 aspect ratio) and standard (4:3 aspect ratio). Each model in the improved 600i line combines an award-winning SMART Board 600 series interactive whiteboard with a new boom-mounted, short-throw UF55 or UF55w projector, which offer longer bulb life and better image quality than previous generations. The wide-format 600i increases active whiteboarding space by 20 percent over the standard and is compatible with wide-screen laptop and desktop computers. Any SMART Board 680, 660, 580 and 560 interactive whiteboard can be retrofitted with a UF55 projector, and the 685 model can be retrofitted with a UF55w.

## What's new from SMART at FETC

### SMART Table

The [SMART Table](#) is a groundbreaking interactive learning center designed specifically for K–3 students. The world's first multitouch, multiuser table for primary education, the SMART Table encourages students to create, explore and discover together. With its intuitive, touch-sensitive surface, students can interact with digital content and work collaboratively to complete interactive lessons, play educational games and solve problems.



Read the feature article on [page 3](#) to find out how students at Killarney Elementary School in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, are using the SMART Table beta unit.

### SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

## Teachers and students get a kick out of SMART products



Teachers at [The Weiss School](#) in Florida have developed some innovative ways to use SMART products to teach the school's 240 gifted students.

The school has 23 SMART Board interactive whiteboards, some of which are used daily to teach core subjects such as math, science and language arts. But teachers are also using SMART products to help students compose music and perfect their martial arts moves. [Read the full article.](#)

## SMART-accredited software



### [SMART's Software Accreditation Program](#)

includes more than 300 multimedia content and software titles from over 85 companies. The program recognizes titles based on their level of compatibility with SMART Board interactive whiteboards and Sympodium™ interactive pen displays.

Consider these new SMART-accredited software and content titles for your next math or science lesson.

### [Middle School Math for SMART Notebook](#)

consists of 200 exemplary math lessons that are organized by grade level and strand. All lessons are correlated to state curriculum standards and can be accessed directly from the SMART Notebook Gallery.

### [StarrMatica](#)

offers more than 2,000 interactive online resources for grades 3–6 language arts students. You can search virtual manipulatives, instructional animations, practice activities, games and Internet links by grade, topic and state curriculum standards.

## Fast facts on SMART Sync



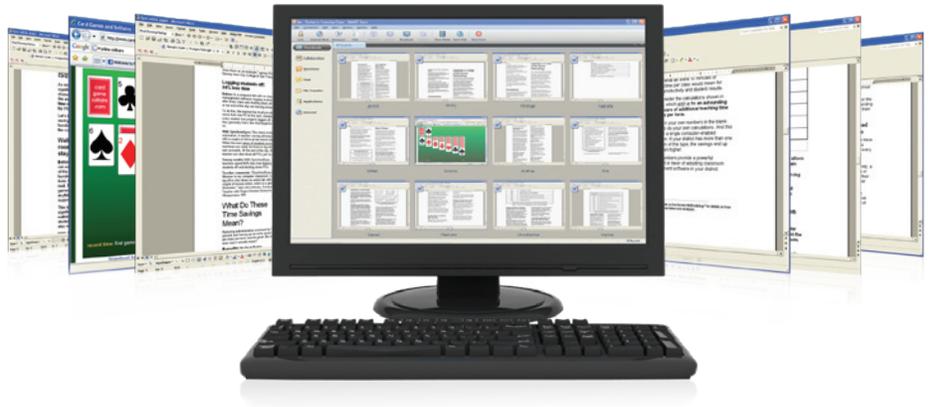
- Easy to use: Thanks to its intuitive interface, SMART Sync requires little or no training
- What educators need: The software's design is based on a decade of continuous feedback from teachers and technology coordinators
- Effective monitoring: SMART Sync lets you lock screens, restrict Internet access or control students' computers
- Efficient set up: Your school administrator can set up each class list, so all you have to do is sign in, select your class list and teach
- Information sharing: You can broadcast your screen or any student's screen to the rest of the class, send files to and receive files from students and chat electronically
- Collaboration: SMART Sync helps you place students into groups and allows them to share screens as they work together on projects

**"The greatest benefit ... is not needing to constantly walk around the room to keep an eye on the students. Being able to spend less time observing and more time helping and teaching is a great improvement."**

**Jeffrey Stone**

Administrator and computer teacher  
Notre Dame High School  
Fairfield, Connecticut

## Guide student learning with SMART Sync 2009



The computer class is nearly over, but your lesson has barely begun. You've spent more time walking around the room and organizing students than you've spent on teaching. Some students are distracted by websites, while others are waiting for you to answer their questions. You wish you could just get back to your lesson.

Problems like these inspired the creation of SMART Sync 2009, the latest version of SynchronEyes classroom management software. SMART Sync helps you spend more time teaching in the computer classroom by minimizing the amount of time you spend managing administrative chores.

### How does it work?

SMART Sync connects your computer to each of your students' computers, enabling you to see thumbnail views of their desktops on your screen. Because you can see all the programs they are using, you can tell if someone needs help focusing. If it's necessary, you can even block access to specific applications and websites or control student desktops. Instead of walking around the room to check on students, you can monitor them with a quick glance at your screen.

### More opportunities for learning

With SMART Sync, you can expand the ways you teach with computers. Using the broadcasting feature, you can show the whole class your screen – or the screen of a student – to give an example of good work. Or, use the chat function to promote team building and communication.

If your lesson plan calls for a mix of individual, small-group and whole-class activities, you can use SMART Sync's collaboration feature. The software randomly organizes students into small groups so they can exchange ideas after they've worked on a problem individually. Then the entire class can discuss the exercise.

Whether you're looking for ways to collaborate or just new tools to help you manage your computer classroom more effectively, SMART Sync can help you and your students get more from class time.

## How can SMART Sync make my computer class a better place?

### Ask Stephanie

Stephanie Carson is the product manager for SMART Sync. We talked to her about SMART Sync 2009 and its effect on students and teachers.

**EDCompass:** What do teachers tell you has changed in their classrooms since they started using SMART's classroom management software?

**Stephanie:** Teachers say the logistics of the computer class are so much easier – they feel like they're actually teaching, not just supervising. And students are getting more work done. One of the nice results is that teachers are getting more satisfaction from their jobs – and less stress.



**EDCompass:** SMART Sync sounds great once it's set up, but is it complicated to get started?

**Stephanie:** We've worked hard to ensure it's easy to run all aspects of SMART Sync – setting up class lists and other information isn't difficult at all. But we also realize that this type of administrative job, no matter how simple, can take away from valuable class time. So our software is designed to be set up in advance by your technology coordinator. All teachers have to do is sign in, click on the right class and they're ready to go.

**EDCompass:** How does the collaboration feature work in the computer classroom, a place that's traditionally been more geared around independent work?

**Stephanie:** I guess collaboration is in our blood here at SMART. We've seen the huge results that products like the interactive whiteboard bring to classrooms by encouraging collaborative learning. So we're motivated to help teachers bring the benefits of collaboration to any learning space. SMART Sync automatically assigns students to groups so they can share screens and chat. There's even a sign-off feature that requires group consensus before students can report. It actually gives teachers a way of making collaboration work quite easily – even in the computer lab, where people don't usually put their heads together.

### Survey shows increased productivity

A customer survey recently released by SMART offers a clear picture of how SMART Sync helps increase teacher productivity. The survey, completed by 348 educational organizations across North America, reveals that on average teachers save 14 minutes of class time per typical 50-minute class by using SMART Sync. That adds up to seven hours of extra teaching time per class, per term – good news for educators challenged by the administration of computer class time. Request a copy of the [full report](#).

## Collaborating in the computer class

To give you a better idea of how collaboration could look with SMART Sync software, check out our [sample SMART Notebook lessons](#) on our education website. Each of these lesson activities begins by introducing a topic to the whole class, and then follows with a break-out exercise for groups of two or three students.



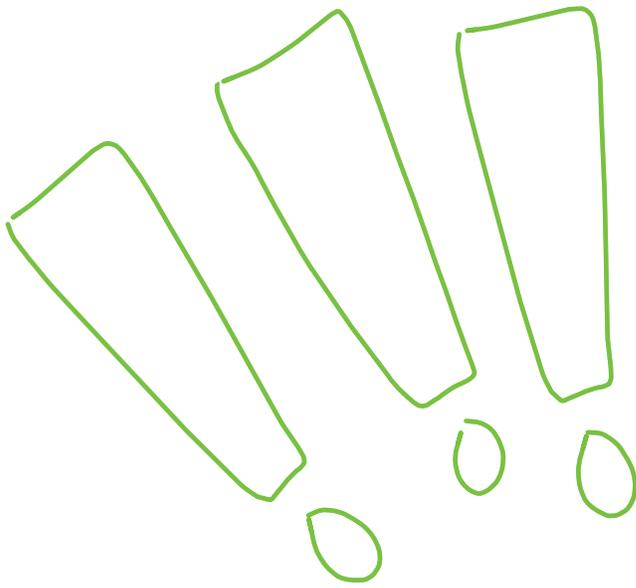
For example, our [lesson activity on DNA](#) begins by discussing the elements of DNA. Once you've taught your class the concept, you can reinforce it with a small-group exercise on creating a DNA molecule. Use SMART Sync's collaboration feature to randomly sort students into groups and allow them some time to work on the exercise individually. Once that's complete, the groups can discuss their ideas face-to-face or through the chat feature, sharing screens as they present their work. Once finished, the group's designated recorder submits the file digitally to you. Then you can discuss the exercise as a class, revisiting the original SMART Notebook lesson activity.

Sample lessons like this one give you a template for designing your own break-out sessions for any topic you choose.

## Up next

Watch for the next issue of EDCompass newsletter, where you'll discover how teachers around North America are developing extraordinary experiences in their classrooms. And, as in every issue, you'll have access to new SMART Notebook lesson activities and Senteo question sets to try with your SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

If you want to check out previous issues of EDCompass, you can find archived editions of the newsletter on our website at [education.smarttech.com/publications](http://education.smarttech.com/publications).



# The new face of learning

Getting students to grin, gasp and grow is easy with SMART education solutions.

We support you all the way with everything from exceptional products to premium digital resources.

Create a new look in your classrooms.

To learn more, visit us at FETC 2009, **booth 1401**. Or go to [www.smarttech.com/EdSolutions](http://www.smarttech.com/EdSolutions).

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