IN THIS ISSUE

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

As you head into a new school year, your thoughts may turn to better ways to help your students learn and to the role technology can play in meeting everyone's needs. With that in mind, we designed this issue of the newsletter to help you get energized for teaching so you can, in turn, get students excited about learning. We've packed new lesson activities, question sets and training opportunities into these pages. You'll also find news of an educational technology package that is tailored to suit a variety of learning environments, and stories from teachers who are achieving real results in those classrooms. We want to give you tools to guide your students as they work to achieve their goals, inside the classroom and out.

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

Keeping Them Engaged

There's a failing of the education system that has existed for years but has never been the focus of a major task force or legislation. Few alarms have been rung. People are not mobilizing to fight against its devastating impact on society nor are they marching in the streets demanding a solution.

The tragedy is the number of students who start in formal education systems and never graduate. This problem is widespread, persistent and systemic.

Across North America, about 30 percent of all students never matriculate. People would be wrong to assume it's only those at the lowest ability levels who are dropping out. All too often it's the best and brightest who find that school offers nothing to them – no engagement, no challenge and no connection to a desirable future.

The use of technology products is one way to help involve and engage young learners. Perhaps what is most important about the integration of these products is the change in teaching and learning styles they often prompt. The integrated use of computers, interactive whiteboards and response systems can create a learning environment that encourages discovery and the construction of knowledge. Without focusing on 21st-century skills per se, these skills are nonetheless being developed.

As the new school year starts, all of us will be doing our part to bring out each child's will to learn and to keep students in school. In the pages of this issue, you can learn about the new products and resources we've developed – we hope they will contribute to reducing this problem.

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

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SMART Notebook Lesson Activities

Integrated Classroom Technology Bundle Now Available

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 Notebook lesson activities during your next math, science or English class.

Equivalent Fractions

Math students in grades 4–6 can learn about equivalent fractions using a specified multiplier.

The Origin of the Earth's Atmosphere

Science students in grades 7–9 can learn how the atmosphere evolved and the percentage of gases that encompass it.

Comparing Poetry

English students in grade 10 can learn about the poetic form and explore the ideas and descriptive language of two poems about World War I.

SMART Notebook wins 2009 CODiE Award

SMART Notebook 10 software recently received a CODiE award from the Software & Information Industry Association, in the Best Education Technology Solution for Productivity and Creativity category. The software was judged on its suitability for students with diverse learning styles and abilities, its effective use of technology, its overall aesthetics and the availability and accessibility of information and support for users.

If you attended the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in Washington, DC, this summer, you may have heard about SMART Interactive Classroom PE, a technology bundle that supports differentiated instruction. This easy-to-use product package includes a SMART Board™ 600i interactive whiteboard system, SMART Response, an AirLiner™ wireless slate, a SMART Document Camera, SMART Audio and SMART Notebook SE bracelets. Together, these products help teachers create a classroom environment in which every student can thrive, regardless of learning style or ability.

Michelle Hoge, a first-grade teacher at Lostant Elementary School in Lostant, Illinois, has the SMART Interactive Classroom PE, and she has noticed significant improvement in student engagement and outcomes. Whether her students are auditory, kinesthetic or visual learners, or have challenges with fine motor skills, Hoge has seen improvements in learning and comprehension.

"When students are motivated, they take more of an active role in their own learning, which leads to success in reaching classroom goals, and these SMART products have helped me do this," says Hoge. "In turn, my lesson planning time is reduced, and there is less pressure and stress for me and my students."

You can see how SMART Interactive Classroom PE is being used in schools in Worcester, Massachusetts; Dallas, Texas; Miramichi, Canada; and Toronto, Canada. Watch the videos on the SMART Exchange.

We're also working on a related white paper, which is titled "Creating Technology-Enabled Learning Environments for Flexible Grouping." It will be added to the white papers page on SMART's website in mid-September.

To learn more about how SMART Interactive Classroom PE can help you transform your classroom, contact an authorized SMART reseller in your area.

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SupportLink Newsletter Is Here for You

At SMART, we care about your experience – both with our products and with us as a company. To enhance this experience, we're launching *SupportLink*, a technical support and training services newsletter that will help you effectively use your SMART products. Each issue of the newsletter will offer the following:

- New training opportunities

- Top technical tips

- Advice for getting the most out of the support section on SMART's website

- Links and updates to technical documents that cover the installation, administration and use of SMART products
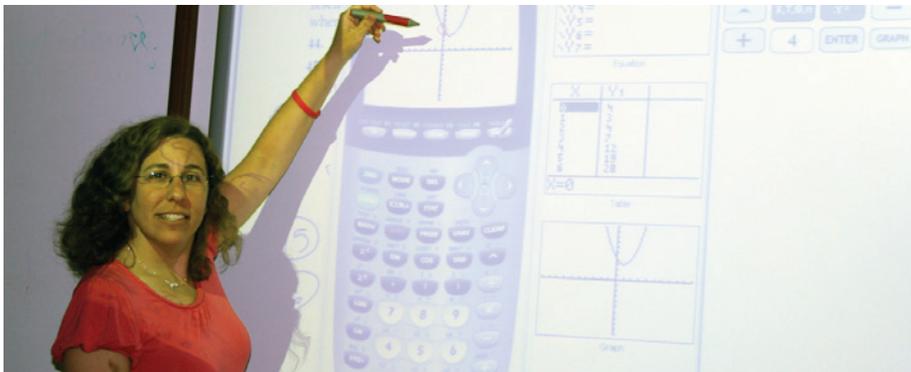
Sign up now to receive the first issue in September, and get dependable, results-oriented support sent right to your inbox, six times a year.

SMART Notebook SE Now for Macs

SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition) is now available for Mac users. The software gives students access to a variety of assignment templates to help them complete tasks such as book reports, science labs and Venn diagrams. It also enables them to keep track of due dates, take notes and highlight important concepts. SMART Notebook SE runs on desktop computers, laptops, ultra-mobile PCs, mobile devices and tablets. For more information, visit the SMART Notebook SE product page on SMART's website.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Seamless Integration

"Adding SMART Board interactive whiteboards into our technology mix has helped our teachers become even more effective in the classroom," says Stuart Posin, director of technology at the Buckley School in Sherman Oaks, California.

And what a mix it is. At Buckley, a private school with over 100 teachers and around 760 students from kindergarten to twelfth grade, all the classrooms are completely technology enabled. Read the full article.

SMART Response Question Sets

Find a database of SMART Response 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 SMART Response question sets in your next language arts, math or social studies class.

"Sc" Words
First-grade language arts students can test their knowledge of common letter strings that begin with "sc."

Calculator Activities
Math students in grades 3–5 can test their knowledge of how to use a calculator to add and subtract numbers.

Map of Canada
Fifth- and sixth-grade social studies students can test their knowledge of Canadian provinces and territories.

Launch TI Calculator Emulator through SMART Notebook Math

SMART Notebook Math software is now integrated with the Texas Instruments (TI) calculator emulator and computer software. You can launch your installed TI calculator software directly through SMART Notebook Math, giving you immediate access to your TI applications without having to open a new program. Learn more about SMART Notebook Math, and download the beta.

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SMART PD Plus – SMART Response

Are you beginning the school year with a new AirLiner wireless slate or SMART Response system in your classroom, or could you use extra training on either product? This year, we are introducing a series of events, held in various locations across the United States, that offer hands-on training on these products. In October, the SMART PD Plus – SMART Response sessions will give you practice creating and delivering assessments and managing class information. When you attend, you'll receive a SMART Response system with five remotes for your school.

The following events are being held in October. Is there one in your area?

- **October 6** – San Diego, California
  Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina

- **October 8** – Weehawken, New Jersey
  Sheraton Lincoln Harbor Hotel

- **October 13** – Miami, Florida
  Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay

- **October 15** – Minneapolis, Minnesota
  Minneapolis Convention Center

Visit SMART's Training Center to find out more about these events and other training options from SMART.

SMART Showcase Schools Expand Internationally

Our growing network of SMART Showcase Schools has recently expanded to include schools overseas. Watch for the special education edition of the newsletter in October that will feature Isobel Mair School, a special-needs school in East Renfrewshire, Scotland. You'll find out how its teachers are using the SMART Table and other SMART products to help students with a wide range of support needs – from severe to very complex learning difficulties – to collaborate and communicate.

SMART Showcase Schools have become resources for other educators who want to learn more about the benefits of implementing SMART education solutions. SMART selects schools and districts that demonstrate commitment to transforming their classrooms into centers of interactive learning. Visitors to a SMART Showcase School can expect to see how SMART solutions are used to engage students and enhance lessons every day.

Visit the SMART Showcase Schools section on our education website to find a school in your area.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

Peer-Mentoring Program Helps Build Collaborative School Community

Three years ago, when Milissa Gavel was teaching sixth-grade at Davison Elementary School, she was allotted space in the school's timetable to help her colleagues use technology more effectively to meet learning outcomes. A big believer in the merits of classroom technology, Gavel jumped at the opportunity to become a peer mentor. But she had no idea the program would revolutionize teaching and, more importantly, learning at the school in Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Now the hallways and classrooms of Davison buzz with technology-enabled activity. Eager students crowd around SMART Board interactive whiteboards, which are in constant use. First-grade students log on to in-class computers to update their blogs and read feedback from their parents. With digital cameras in hand, sixth-grade students explore the shared areas of the school, shooting images of symmetrical objects for their upcoming reports. And in every classroom, teachers are troubleshooting, advising and modeling. Read the full article.

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SBD600 Series – Dual-Touch Collaboration Is Here

They say that two heads are better than one. Now, when it comes to collaborating on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, two fingers are better than one as well!

We'd like you to meet the SMART Board SBD600 interactive whiteboard. This new SMART Board brings dual-touch capabilities to your classroom. It enables two students to touch or write simultaneously on the interactive whiteboard to complete exercises, problem solve and engage each other in learning.

What makes it special? SMART Notebook software, of course! With the SMART Board SBD600, you can switch from single- to dual-user mode by pressing one button in the SMART Notebook toolbar, creating two separate workspaces on the board.

It takes two

The SBD600 increases teamwork in your classroom. Its collaborative features get students working together – whether they are building consensus on an answer, demonstrating multiple ways to complete a task or sharing their knowledge of a subject.
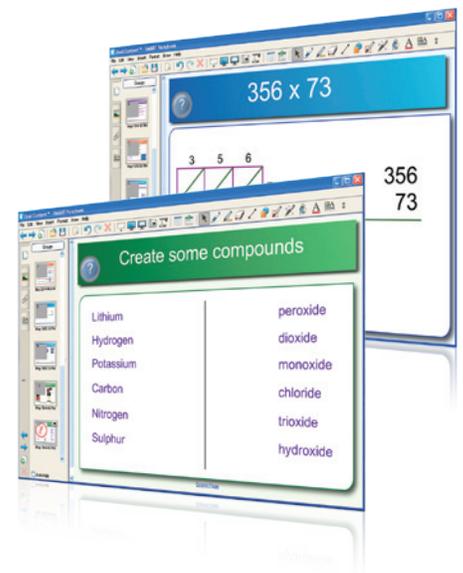
Like our single-user SMART Board interactive whiteboards, the SBD600 series enables you to easily create and teach with SMART Notebook software. But the addition of dual-user mode also lets you increase the number of students who can work on the interactive whiteboard at once.

This means your SMART Notebook lesson activities can still be used for whole-class learning, but you can then quickly switch to dual-user mode for small-group breakout work. And because the SBD600 has the touch capabilities of our other SMART Board interactive whiteboards, collaborative experiences are engaging and interactive.

The SMART Board SBD600 is also great for teacher-student interaction – demonstrate a problem to a student one-on-one using one side of the interactive whiteboard while your student completes the exercise using the other.

The SBD600 series will be available for purchase this fall. We'll also be providing examples of lesson activities specifically designed for two users, to help you help you make the most of the board's collaborative features.

Fast Facts

Collaborative – The SBD600 gets two students working together on the interactive whiteboard. Its separate workspaces enable students to work concurrently or collaboratively on the same activity.

Flexible – You can easily alternate between whole-class activities and small-group work by switching from single- to dual-user mode
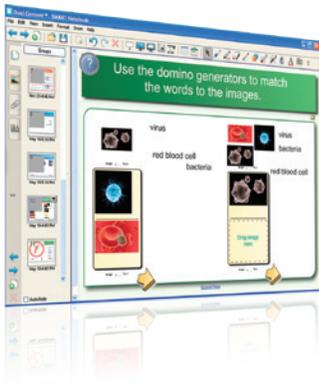
Dynamic – With the SBD600, you have access to all of SMART Notebook software's lesson creation and delivery tools to help you make dual-touch lesson activities engaging

Intuitive – This new interactive whiteboard builds on the simplicity of the single-user SMART Board interactive whiteboard experience, making it easy for teachers and students to learn to use its dual-touch capabilities

Interactive – Students can use either their fingers or a pen to interact with lesson material. In dual-user mode, each user has his or her own floating toolbar to access SMART Notebook tools.

Versatile – The SBD600 supports many types of collaborative activities such as problem solving and consensus building. Examples of dual-user lesson activities will be available on our website.

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Inspiration for Dual-Touch Lessons

Looking for suggestions on how to incorporate dual touch into your lessons? We've got some ideas:

- Develop matching games for a variety of subject areas. For example, two students can pair biology words with images using SMART Notebook's domino generator.

- Use the interactive whiteboard for handwriting practice. You can model how to trace letters in one workspace while a student is tracing the same letters in the other workspace.

- Create two columns with the names of different chemical elements. Have two students combine the elements to form chemical compounds.

- Enable two students to work together to calculate the area of an irregular pentagon. One student can calculate the area of the square while the other calculates the area of the triangle. The answers can be then added together to determine the total area of the shape.

Up Next

Watch for the next issue of *EDCompass* newsletter. You'll learn about new grants and funding opportunities that can help you engage your students with the perfect mix of technology products.

Ask Sarah

Sarah Rawlinson is the product manager for the SMART Board SBD600 series. We asked her how these dual-touch interactive whiteboards help teachers create more collaborative learning experiences.

EDCompass You showcased the SBD600 at NECC in June. How did educators react?

Sarah Their response was great. Most of the educators we talked to thought the addition of a dual-touch feature would be a valuable enhancement to a number of different lesson activities. And they loved the idea that they could give more students a chance to interact with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard during class time.

EDCompass Is it easy to use?

Sarah Yes – switching from single- to dual-user mode is as simple as clicking one icon in the SMART Notebook toolbar. Current SMART Notebook users will notice that the addition of this icon is the only change we've made.

EDCompass What kinds of collaborative activities can students work on using the SBD600?

Sarah The possibilities are unlimited. For example, two students could solve the same equation using two different methods, race to rearrange a list of words alphabetically, work together on a fill-in-the-blanks story or create scientific compounds from a list of elements.

EDCompass What kinds of lessons would benefit most from the SMART Board SBD600 interactive whiteboard?

Sarah While the collaboration capabilities of dual-touch would be helpful in all subject areas, math lessons let teachers make particularly good use of this board. For instance, a student and teacher could work through a single problem together, two students could solve the same equation using different methods, or two students could work simultaneously on different parts of an equation and then collaborate on the final solution.

EDCompass Can current SMART Board 600 series interactive whiteboards be upgraded to incorporate dual touch?

Sarah No, unfortunately current SMART Board interactive whiteboards cannot be upgraded.

EDCompass Will the 600 series continue shipping once the SBD600 is available?

Sarah Yes! The SMART Board 600 series is still the world's most popular interactive whiteboard, and that won't be changing anytime soon.

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