

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome

At SMART, we're committed to assisting educators like you as you make changes that transform your schools into the best possible places to teach and learn. We're always working on new ways to help you give students the kind of technology-enabled education they require for long-term success. In this issue of the newsletter, you can read about some of those initiatives and hear from teachers who are improving learning outcomes in their classrooms. In the [feature article](#), teachers share how they are conquering distance learning to help all their students achieve in extraordinary ways. You can also find out how a school in Illinois is creating rich exploratory learning experiences for a language-diverse student population in this month's [SMART Showcase School profile](#). And our [product spotlight](#) this issue highlights the SMART Podium™ interactive pen display line (formerly the Sympodium™) and our new widescreen model, which gives you 30 percent more working space than a standard format display.

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 social media websites can you access from your school's network?

NANCY'S NOTES

Fresh Set of Eyes

All over the world, children walk into classrooms with individual frames of reference. They were born to and raised by people with a culture and perspective, and their environment has exposed them to many life lessons. For children, life is the microcosm within which they exist, with media providing glimpses into the larger outside world.

Opening these young minds to facts, figures, reasoning and even sensibility is the teacher's job. Gaining and retaining learners' interest is a challenge facing not only educators but also SMART as we imagine and create the products that will assist teachers in their quest to provide all students with the opportunity to learn.



Since the introduction of the SMART Table™ interactive learning center about a year ago, we have learned much from our customers about just how engaging a tool it can be for young students – including the profound impact it can have on learners with autism. We continue to focus on developing collaborative activities in a variety of subject areas. Look for more information on updates to the SMART Table in the March issue of the newsletter.

In January at the BETT show in London, we previewed a SMART Table for older learners that has the same focus on collaboration and engagement, but includes activities appropriate for an older age range. Educators were generous in sharing their thoughts and insights into what the product could be today and in future iterations.

As much as we are learning, imagine what the users of the SMART Table and other SMART products are learning. They can explore new worlds, see new things, develop new skills and work collaboratively. Most importantly, they can do things for themselves and receive immediate feedback from the activities and their peers.

These daily discoveries form the foundation of a new set of reference points for these children – giving them a fresh set of eyes through which to view the world.

Nancy Knowlton is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

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 early education, science, English or math class.

Kooshball Letter Game

Early education students can practice their alphabet knowledge by identifying the beginning sounds of words that are pictured.

Food Chains

Fourth- and fifth-grade science students can learn how organisms live and grow and can classify them in the food chain based on their roles.

Plural Spelling Rules

English students in grades 6–8 can learn the main rules for forming regular plural nouns. At the end of the activity, students can test their knowledge with a SMART Response™ interactive response system quiz.

Transformations of Polygons

Math students in grades 9–12 can translate, reflect and rotate polygons to determine congruence.

New Application Created for the SMART Table

If you have a **SMART Table interactive learning center** in your classroom or school, you'll be interested in our new application called Image Reveal. Created by **Vectorform**, this collaborative learning application enables your early education students to answer a series of multiple choice questions in a chosen subject area. Each correct answer uncovers part of a hidden image until it is fully visible. Students must answer at least half the questions before they can guess what the hidden image is to win the game. The application includes a notepad that students can use to work out problems if needed.



Once you've downloaded this application, the SMART Table Toolkit can help you customize the content, including adjusting the subject area, hidden image, questions and answers. You can also use images to tailor questions and answers for your pre-literate students.

SMART Table users can download Image Reveal at no cost on our [application page](#). To see Image Reveal in action, watch a [video demonstration](#).

Win a SMART Table!

If you're a computer science teacher, create your own SMART Table application for a chance to win a SMART Table for your school. We're challenging you and your students to build a multitouch, multiuser SMART Table application that's innovative and creative. For all the details, visit the [SMART Multitouch Application Contest page](#). We are accepting entries until July 1, which gives you plenty of time to integrate this contest into your teaching plans.

Share Your Insights Contest Winners

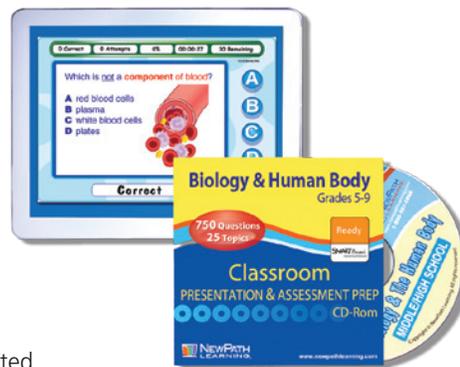
We recently invited you to tell us how you and your students are achieving extraordinary results in your classroom, for a chance to win a SMART product for your school. Thanks to everyone who submitted short videos – you inspired us with your passion and creativity.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- **First place winner** – Catherine Carmody from Joshua Eaton School in Reading, Massachusetts, for "Guinea Pigs and SMART Boards." [Watch the video.](#)
- **Second place winner** – Laura Smeltz from Bonfield Elementary in Lititz, Pennsylvania, for "I Am SMART." [Watch the video.](#)
- **Third place winner** – Heather McEntire from Crescent Elementary in Sandy, Utah, for "Share Your Insights Video." [Watch the video.](#)

SMART-Accredited Software

Do you know what content and software programs work best with your SMART products? **SMART's Software Accreditation Program** includes hundreds of multimedia content and software titles from companies around the world. The program recognizes titles based on their level of compatibility with SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards and SMART Podium interactive pen displays.



Consider the following three SMART-accredited titles for your next lesson.

Classroom presentation and assessment prep CD-ROM series by NewPath Learning

NewPath Learning's library of illustrated, standards-based review questions provides comprehensive coverage of math, reading, science and social studies topics for grades 1–8. Select from over 35,000 interactive flashcard questions that are sorted by grade, subject and topic to get instant feedback about your students' understanding.

Co:Writer 6 and Read:OutLoud 6 by Don Johnston Incorporated

These tools were designed to assist students who struggle to read and write because of physical or learning disabilities. **Co:Writer 6** uses word prediction to help students write with proper grammar and spelling, and **Read:OutLoud 6** reads e-books and websites aloud to students who need this support.

*AP, honors and electives online learning centers by McGraw-Hill

AP®, Honors and Electives online learning centers are companion websites to McGraw-Hill textbooks. They offer virtual flashcards, quizzes and animations for students, and test banks, presentations and manuals for teachers.

*AP and Advanced Placement Program are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board, which was not involved in the production of and does not endorse these products.

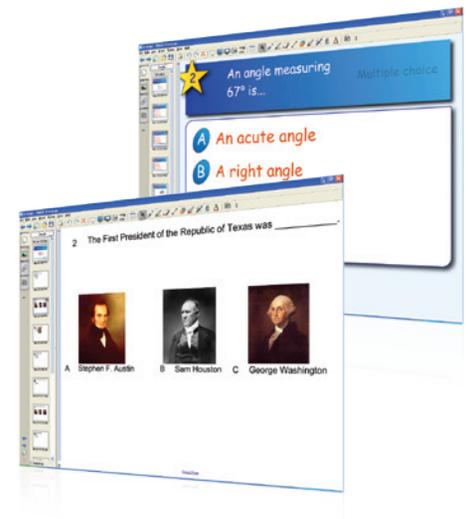
FEATURE ARTICLE

Education from Afar



Many school districts are updating the four walls, desks and chalkboards of their traditional classrooms, transforming these rooms into highly evolved technology spaces with interactive whiteboards, interactive tables, document cameras and amplification systems. [Read the full article.](#)

SMART Response Question Sets



Find a database of **SMART Response question sets** on the SMART Exchange. Each set includes questions that are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

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

Antonyms

K–3 language arts students can test their knowledge of antonyms.

Texas Symbols

First-grade social studies students can test their knowledge of Texas's symbolic features and other facts about the state.

Measuring Angles

Math students in grades 3–6 can test their knowledge of different types of angles and pairs of angles.

Introduction to Electrostatics

Ninth-grade chemistry students can test their knowledge of electrostatics and learn how they affect the electron transfer between materials.

Quadratic Functions and the X-Intercepts

Math students in grades 10–12 can test their ability to understand and solve exponential functions.

SMART Table Activities



If you're using the SMART Table in your primary classroom, check out the growing number of [SMART Table activities](#) on our education website. Most activities correspond to a SMART Notebook lesson activity and SMART Response question set. You can use SMART Table activities with small groups to complement whole-class and individual learning experiences.

Here are a few science, math, language arts, social studies and geography activities to get you started:

Insects and Spiders

Science students can learn about insects and spiders and how they differ.

Fraction Action

Math students can practice simplifying fractions.

Common Idioms

Language arts students can learn about common idioms and what they mean.

Dressing for the Seasons

Social studies students can get a better understanding of what clothes to wear during the four seasons.

Where in the World

Geography students can learn where different cities are in the world.

Attend a Webinar on Technology in Education



SMART's webinar series has been hugely popular among educators across North America. Have you attended any of our webinars yet?

We're planning the next series for the spring and would love your feedback. Let us know what topics you'd like us to feature and what time of day suits you best. We'll try our best to incorporate your suggestions into the next series. Contact us at LearningMatters@smarttech.com.

In the meantime, there are three remaining webinars in the current series:

- Create. Teach. Learn. Assess. Enhancing Teaching and Accelerating Learning with Technology in 1:1 Environments – Wednesday, February 24, at 3:00 p.m. EST
- Building a Professional Development Strategy to Effectively Support your Technology Implementation – Tuesday, March 2, at 3:00 p.m. EST
- All Hands On: Promoting Collaborative Learning in Primary Classrooms – Thursday, March 25, at 3:00 p.m. EST

Though these webinars are designed for administrators and technology directors, teachers will find much that is relevant to their practice. If you take part in any webinar in this series, you'll receive front-of-the-line access to SMART's virtual shows and the chance to register early for our popular Learning Matters seminar at the [ISTE 2010 conference](#) (formerly known as NECC) in June.

[Visit our website](#) for more information and to register. You can also watch previous webinars with our complimentary [on-demand viewing](#).

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

Passionate Teaching Abounds at Thomas Edison School



Thomas Edison once said that what you are will show in what you do. If it wasn't for a time difference of 80 years, he could very well have been speaking about the educators at one of his namesake schools in Illinois. [Read the full article](#).

Engaging Lessons Flow with SMART Podium

It may have a new name and a new look, but the **SMART Podium** (formerly the Symposium interactive pen display) has long been one of SMART's most popular teaching products. That's because the SMART Podium helps educators teach flexibly while managing the pace of their lessons and interacting with their students.

How can it help you in your classroom? The SMART Podium is connected to a computer and projector, so everything you do on the interactive pen display is projected onto a large screen or your SMART Board interactive whiteboard. With it, you can access applications and control and interact with your lesson materials.

See and show

The SMART Podium lets you see what you are doing on the interactive pen display while simultaneously showing the same content to your students. So whether you are teaching prepared materials or delivering an impromptu lesson, the SMART Podium gives you the freedom and flexibility to take your lesson where it needs to go. It comes with a battery-free, tethered pen that functions as mouse, pen and eraser. You can use the pen to control and present content at the same time – writing notes in digital ink over your favorite applications, showing movies and accessing websites – and then save everything you've done to one file.

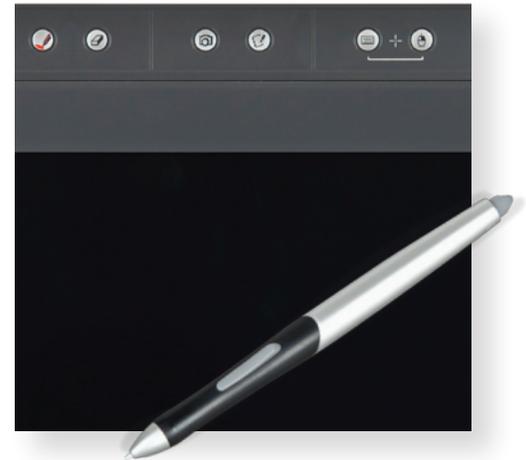
The interactive pen display is a great tool for many different classroom configurations – it can be installed in large lecture-style classrooms, small learning environments where an interactive whiteboard won't fit or mid-sized classrooms to complement the interactive capabilities of a SMART Board interactive whiteboard. The SMART Podium comes in a few different models, including a widescreen version, so you're sure to find the one that suits your teaching style and classroom.

Go wide

The newest member of the SMART Podium interactive pen display line is our widescreen model, the ID422w. Its 22" (56 cm) display with high-definition resolution and a 16:9 aspect ratio gives you more room to write notes and equations. It's also great for manipulating highly detailed material, such as topographic maps or wide-format videos.

Whether you use standard-format or widescreen devices to create your lesson materials, the ID422w will scale the document width to match. This makes it ideal for both the technology you have today and what you may be using in the future.

Fast Facts



- **Engaging** – Interact with lesson materials while facing your students. They can see what you are doing as you do it.
- **Easy to use** – Connect the SMART Podium to your computer and a projector to easily show your lessons on a large screen or a SMART Board interactive whiteboard. USB ports also enable you to connect a USB drive, document camera or other peripheral device.
- **More workspace** – Access tools and functions right on the SMART Podium console instead of crowding your display with toolbars. The widescreen model offers even more room to work.
- **Versatile** – Deliver prepared content or add impromptu material to your lesson. The adjustable tilt stand enables you to easily adjust the display to a comfortable viewing and writing angle.
- **Visual** – Teach dynamic lessons with eye-catching visuals. The SMART Podium ID422w offers a high-definition display for showing detailed materials and videos.
- **Complements the SMART Board interactive whiteboard** – Teach a lesson while seated at your desk, and your students can interact with your materials on the interactive whiteboard.
- **Includes SMART Notebook software** – Use award-winning SMART Notebook software to create and deliver lessons on the SMART Podium

SMART Podium Survey Winner

In the last issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, we asked you to tell us how you use or would like to use the SMART Podium in your classroom, for a chance to win the ID350 model for your school. We are pleased to announce that Glen McMillan from Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, is the winner! Glen is a high school math teacher who sees the SMART Podium as a tool to add flexibility to teaching and interactivity to learning.

Congratulations, Glen – we hope you enjoy using your new SMART Podium.

What teachers say

"I use the Sympodium [now called SMART Podium] daily in my precalculus classroom. In fact, I've been using it daily for over three years. I like the fact that I can face my students while working on problems. The students find it very easy to use and interact with – they actually volunteer more because they LIKE to write on it."

Sue Popekla

Precalculus Teacher
River Falls High School
River Falls, Wisconsin

Up Next



Watch for the next issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, which puts the focus on professional development. Read how teachers in North America are getting involved and expanding their skills and knowledge to improve learning outcomes for their students.

Ask Carolyn



Carolyn Evans is a product manager for the SMART Podium interactive pen display. We asked her to tell us more about using SMART Podium in the classroom and what the wide-format version has to offer.

EDCompass What learning environments benefit from the addition of a SMART Podium?

Carolyn There's a perception that the SMART Podium is designed to only work in large rooms like auditoriums – actually, it's versatile enough to accommodate many different teaching styles and classroom configurations. For instance, the setup of some learning spaces makes it difficult for them to support an interactive whiteboard, so the SMART Podium brings interactive whiteboard functionality to those areas. Administrators are also putting both the SMART Podium and the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in shared learning spaces so teachers can choose which best suits them and their students. It really depends on the teachers' style and how much flexibility they need when choosing the right technology for the class.

EDCompass What can teachers do with a SMART Podium that they can't do with just a computer and projector?

Carolyn A computer and projector allow teachers to introduce digital content into lessons, but if they want to add interactivity as well, a more effective option is a SMART Podium or SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Used with SMART Notebook software, the SMART Podium offers educators many of the same benefits as an interactive whiteboard – just in a different format.

EDCompass Why did SMART choose to add a wide-format model, the ID422w, to the SMART Podium line of products?

Carolyn There is strong demand right now for wide-format and high-definition technology. The ID422w has a native 16:9 aspect ratio and supports 16:10 and 4:3 resolutions, so it works with the technology classrooms have today and what they may have in the future. As well, extra writing space is always a bonus in the classroom, and the ID422w gives teachers and students 30 percent more space than a standard format display. And with full HD resolution, teachers can start showing higher quality videos and images, which can be particularly useful in math, science and geography classes.