



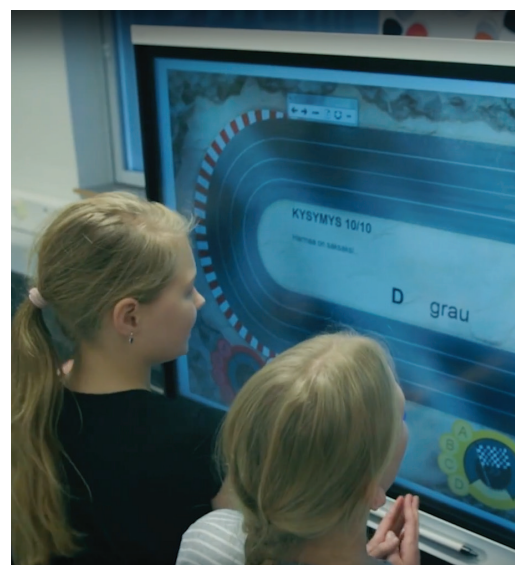
Learning is in the Hands of Students: Redefining a Classroom with SMART

A SMART Customer story with *Christie Carnahan*



“We can test and learn new things and then it’s fun to learn”

Briana, 7, 1st Grader



Motivation: Unexpected Test Results After a Transition

After Valley View Elementary School transitioned to a Program Improvement Plan (PI) in 2011-12, test results from students in teacher Christie Carnahan’s class were not what she expected. The low scores came despite the school’s new standardized English Language Arts and Math program.

Carnahan’s students had little exposure to technology previously. The class had seen an increase in the number of English Language Learners, approximately 60% of her students were underserved, and some came from low socio-economic backgrounds. As such, many of her students had consistently struggled with using technology upon entering her classroom based on their low exposure to technology at home.

Carnahan became a SMART Exemplary Educator (SEE) in 2012, and after reviewing research related to improving student learning outcomes using SMART Technologies, she chose to integrate a comprehensive SMART Solution into her classroom.

Carnahan crafted a technology-focused solution and pedagogy shift with the goal of creating more engaging lessons. She designed instructional objectives aligned to technology-enhanced activities in order to engage students with standardized course materials.

Teacher and School

Christie Carnahan
Dual Immersion 1st Grade
Valley View Elementary School
Pleasanton, California

Challenge

To raise students’ level of engagement with the state’s standardized course materials, and to help them achieve higher scores.

SMART Solution

SMART interactive displays,
SMART Learning Suite software
and student devices

Result

After a year of technology-enriched instruction, the class achieved improved test scores – especially in reading and writing.

How SMART Solutions Improved Learning Outcomes

Enhanced lesson content

Carnahan leveraged SMART Learning Suite to develop lesson content. She migrated her existing content into SMART-based lessons, where students could discover, process, and engage.

Facilitated peer learning

In order to ensure consistent adoption of SMART amp, Carnahan had her students complete a sequence of log-in steps. She encouraged peer learning by asking four students to become SMART amp experts. They in turn trained four other students, and those eight students trained eight more students, until the entire class was proficient.

Extended learning beyond the classroom

Lesson activities were created to use at home after first being taught in the classroom. Students were asked to teach their families the lesson. Students and parents then collaboratively journaled about their home learning in SMART amp, and shared at school.

Leveraged integrated features

SMART Notebook®: Used to develop and modify curriculum content, delivered using the SMART interactive display and SMART Document Camera.

SMART lab™: Used to build whole class, small group and individual game-based lesson activities, where students could contribute at the SMART Board or through their devices.

SMART response®: Enabled Carnahan to capture formative assessment data on what each student understood, in real-time, helping to provide differentiated instruction.

Outcome: Engaged Students and Higher Scores

The students' overall scores on the California English Language Development Test showed a 70.8-point average improvement, which represents an 18.4% average increase.

- **READING:** Average improvement was 143.8 points, with a median of 146.0. This represents an average percentage increase in reading of 58.3% (average median = 55.7%).
- **WRITING:** Average improvement was 91.9 points, with a median of 97.0 points. This represents an average percentage increase in writing of 36.1% (average median = 32.4%).

Engaged Students with New Technology Skills

Carnahan believes her SMART Solution helped her better connect with students through a collaborative, interactive, and technology-rich classroom learning environment. She felt her SMART Solution helped encourage her students to participate in school, become actively involved in the curriculum, and develop increased technology skills.

For more customer stories visit: smarttech.com/greatness



“I saw firsthand how my SMART solution allowed my students to not only experience the latest educational technology, but also discover the AMAZING gift of education within themselves.”

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is a world leader in simple and intuitive classroom technology solutions. We are an innovator in software and interactive technologies that enable natural collaboration, helping every student and teacher discover and develop their greatness. To learn more, visit smarttech.com.

SMART Technologies

Toll Free 888.42.SMART (U.S./Canada) or 800.260.9408 to speak to a sales representative

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