

August 2012

ED Compass

magazine

5 TIPS

to start the new school year right

13-year-old prodigy shares her passion for teaching and love of SMART

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN TURN YOUR WALLS INTO AN INTERACTIVE LEARNING SPACE

WELCOME BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

Tips and inspiration for a productive school year



SMART®



Welcome back to the classroom

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.”

-- Alvin Toffler

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 the needs of each student. With that in mind, we designed this issue of the magazine to help you get energized for teaching so you can, in turn, get students excited about learning. The pages of this issue are brimming with useful back-to-school lesson activities, tips and best practices that we hope will help you achieve just that.

On page 4, Lisa Parisi provides tips to ensure you start the school year right. On page 7 you can read an inspiring story from a 13-year-old student who is making her dreams of teaching with technology come true. In this month's feature on page 14, we load you up with a road map of sorts, providing resources and information from other teachers on the various stages that will take you from novice to expert with your SMART products. And, as always, you will find six pages filled with classroom content and SMART Notebook tips that you can customize or use as they are.

Whether you're being introduced to SMART products for the first time or you're a skilled user, we hope this issue will help you discover some fresh ideas for engaging your students and making learning more memorable and collaborative.

Shari-Lynn Sare, MANAGING EDITOR

EDCompass

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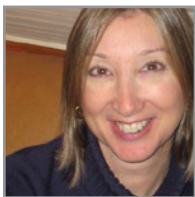
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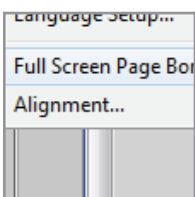
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Interactivity in Any Space – LightRaise interactive projectors



Lisa Parisi

Fourth-grade teacher
Herricks Union
Free School District
Long Island, New York

You can also read Lisa's *EDCompass* blog post, [**SMART Board tips from a fourth-grade teacher**](#), to gather ideas for using your SMART Board® interactive whiteboard in the classroom, and then visit her personal blog, [**Lisa's Lingo**](#). Lisa also co-authored a book called [**Making Connections with Blogging: Authentic Learning in Today's Classroom**](#).

Tips I Use

to Ensure a Great Start to the Year

September is almost upon us and, for many, this means beginning a new school year. This is the time I start thinking about what I need to do to get my classroom ready for my students. Here are a few things I like to do before the students come in for their first day of school.

1 Create a spreadsheet with information about the students.

This will help once you start loading students into various websites, such as [*VoiceThread*](#), [*Edmodo*](#), and blogs. These sites often allow for uploading the whole class at once using a CSV file. This is where the spreadsheet comes in. I include columns for first name, last name, username, password and grade. I recommend you do the work before the stress begins. When it is time to load students into a website, it will take you no more than five minutes.

2 Load students into websites you know you will be using early in the year.

I always set up my blogs and VoiceThread before school starts. [*Edmodo*](#), [*MangaHigh*](#), [*Wikispaces*](#) and [*Glogster EDU*](#) come later when I am ready to show the students how to use these sites.

3 Clean up your saved files.

I always save each [*SMART Notebook™*](#) collaborative learning software presentation I create under a different name as I use it. So my "poetry" file gets re-saved as "poetry2012". This keeps my "poetry" file clean while allowing me to work with the students in the presentation. Before school begins, I go through each re-saved 2012 file, to see if any new pages are worth keeping.



After transferring the pages I want to keep into my clean file, I delete the old files, leaving only clean presentations for the new school year.

4 Set up the room for easy access to the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

I like to keep my large purple rug right in front of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard. When I am teaching lessons using the board, the children can sit on the carpet comfortably. The rest of my furniture is around the rug in different groupings so children have work spaces away from the SMART Board.

5 Create a small goodie bag for each student, which can be found on each desk as they enter the classroom.

The goodie bag can hold items you know they will need on the first day. I include a sharpened pencil, a bookmark, a ruler and a small notebook. Not only do the children enjoy getting these treats, but now I don't have to worry if someone arrives on the first day of school without supplies.

By completing just a few quick chores before the students arrive, you can help make your year start off well.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

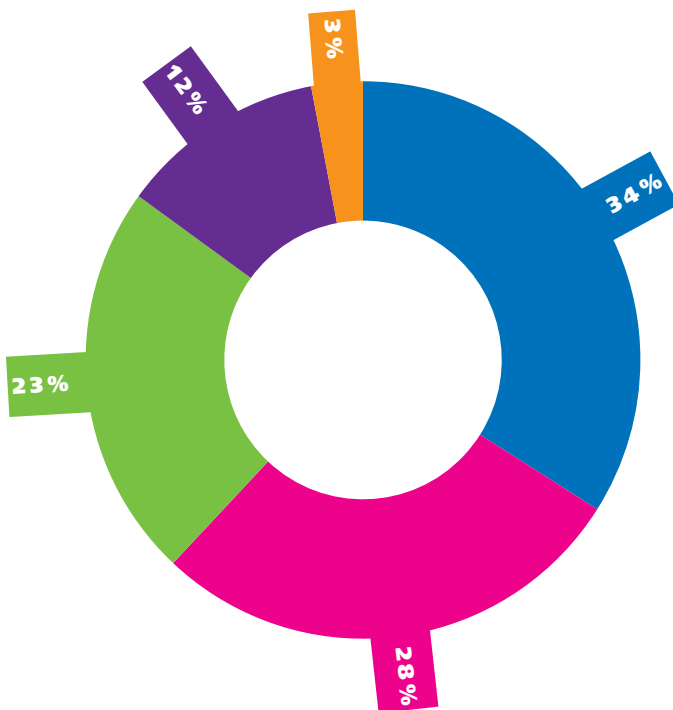
On the first day of school, keep these four tips in mind to create a great atmosphere right from the beginning.

- 1 Shake hands with each student as they enter the classroom. Say hello, ask their name, say something personal. This is something I do each day of the year. It's a great way to set the tone for the rest of the day.
- 2 Carefully introduce tools to the students. Show them the proper way to use the SMART Board interactive whiteboard so they don't damage it. Let them write on it on that first day so they know this is a tool they can use. Also show them how to turn the computer on and off properly and how to save files.
- 3 Take your time unpacking school supplies. I used to have students unpack supplies right away. Now I wait until I have set the tone for the day. We have a class meet and greet, set up rules and logical consequences, and learn about using school tools. When we finally get ready to unpack supplies, students are ready to listen to directions about where to put everything and how to label them. It makes for a much less chaotic situation.
- 4 Enjoy your day. Your mood will have a huge effect on the tone of the room. If you are stressed and flustered, your students will be too. Have everything organized, overplan your day, and relax! Let the fun begin!

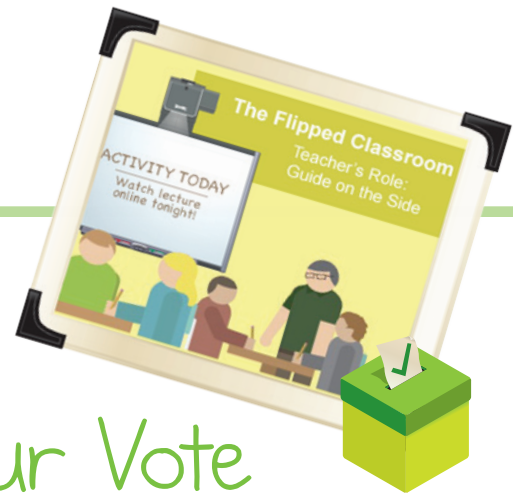


have your say

We asked where you look for professional development



- 34%** Internal School District Offerings, including LMS, e-mail, internal PD days or your Intranet
- 28%** Professional development websites such as smarttech.com/training, Lynda.com or ted.com
- 23%** Informal channels, such as on blogs, discussion boards, professional forums or mobile apps
- 12%** Formal training from SMART or from colleges and universities
- 3%** Other



Your Vote

Overall, what would you say the feedback is on your flipped classroom?

[Vote now](#)



Up Next

Read the next issue of *EDCompass* magazine, where we explore differentiated instruction.

A little girl with big dreams coming true

Do you visit the [EDCompass blog](#) for tips, insights and information from educators using SMART products? The blog has become a place to glean inspiration from other educators using SMART products in the classroom.

But it's not only educators that you can learn from – in this case it's 13-year-old Emily Sparago from Cheshire, Connecticut. Emily is a passionate and committed student entering ninth grade, who, when saw her first SMART Board interactive whiteboard in third-grade, fell in love and knew she had to be a teacher one day.

This inspiring young student has gone on to make significant steps to fulfill her passion and live her dream, and we wanted to share Emily's compelling [EDCompass](#) blog post in this issue of the magazine.

Emily's story...



I can clearly remember the first time I was introduced to a [SMART Board interactive whiteboard](#). I walked into my third-grade classroom on the first day in 2006, glancing around, nervously (as most students do on the first day), questions raced through my mind. Then I saw this ...thing. It was similar to a whiteboard, but definitely wasn't. Directly in front of it, was a black cart, packed with wires topped with a white projector.

Moments later, class started. We were then introduced to this incredible teaching tool - a SMART Board interactive whiteboard. I instantly became interested. I remember going home and researching the SMART Board. immediately, I downloaded the free [SMART Notebook collaborative learning software](#) and began playing around with it, and teaching in front of the computer screen - to my dog - utilizing all of the tools and just being so pleased! That was my first experience of the SMART Board.

By the end of third-grade I hoped to myself, maybe there will be a SMART Board in the fourth-grade classroom! And there was, and in fifth-grade and in sixth-grade. Now, in my middle school, only a few of the classrooms have SMART Boards, but when I am in a class with one, I often get questions from my teachers as to how to fix a problem. I've become the "SMART Board girl" to my science teacher.

...[Continue reading Emily's post](#) on [EDCompass](#) blog

Read part 2 about her experience teaching college graduates 12 years her senior.

Emily also blogged about how she uses Activity Builder in SMART Notebook 11 collaborative learning software, to teach her four-year-old nephew. **Read the post.** And she test-drove and reviewed SMART Notebook Gallery 2.0 beta. **Read the post.**



ON THE SMART

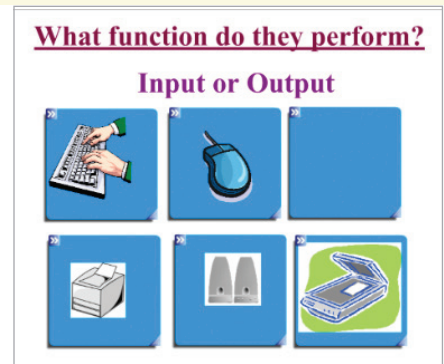
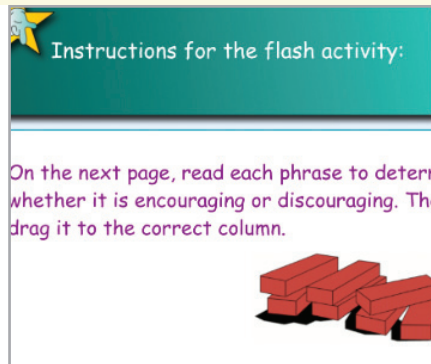
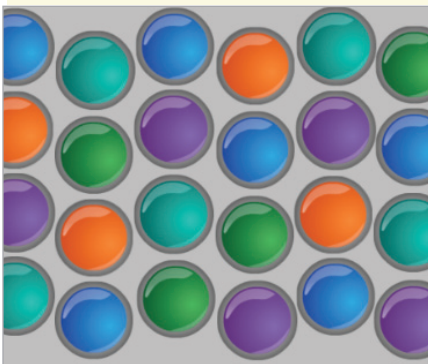
SMART Notebook lessons

With more than 60,000 resources on the [SMART Exchange™ website](#), you can be sure your curriculum stays fresh and exciting. You can find a growing database of lesson content for all grades and subjects – many of which are standards correlated.

You can also search for [Common Core State Standards](#)-correlated lessons for math and English language arts by clicking the [Standards-Correlated Lessons](#) button in the top navigation bar on the home page of SMART Exchange.

For our international readers, select your country in the Search bar to find resources applicable to you.

Here are a few lessons created by teachers that you can try with your students.



Back to School Kooshball Activity

This is a fun way for students to get to know their classmates. Each time a student hits the SMART Board display with a Kooshball, they are asked to reveal something about themselves.

Back to School: Encouragement

Students in grades 4–6 can learn about encouragement and how it differs from discouragement.

Welcome Back to the Technology Lab

Students can review lab rules, procedures and various parts of a computer and their function.

Exchange

WEBSITE

SMART Response™ question sets

SMART Exchange also offers a growing number of [SMART Response question sets](#), most of which are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards. The website contains thousands of activities for all subjects and grade levels.

To make your search even easier, download the Search Widget for SMART Exchange and post it to your website to quickly and easily find content to supplement your lessons.

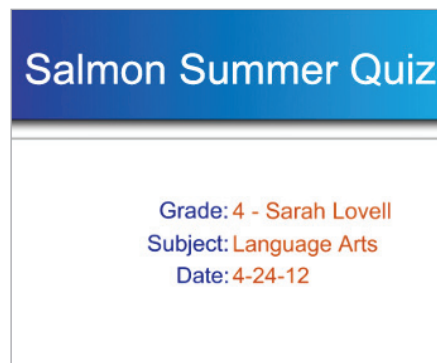
Download the [instructions](#) for posting a widget to your site.

Here are a few SMART Response question sets to try out in your next class.



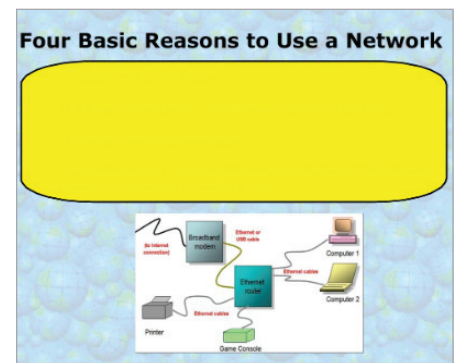
Fire Safety for Kids

K–2 students can learn about *Stop, Drop and Roll*, along with smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, home fire escape plans and common sense safety tips, with a quiz at the end to test their knowledge of fire safety.



Salmon Summer

Fourth-grade students who are reading *Salmon Summer* from the Houghton Mifflin Reading Series can test their understanding of the story in this 10 question quiz.



Network Topologies

Students in grades 9–12 can learn about the physical and logical network topologies used on LANs and WANs, and then test their knowledge in a quiz at the end.

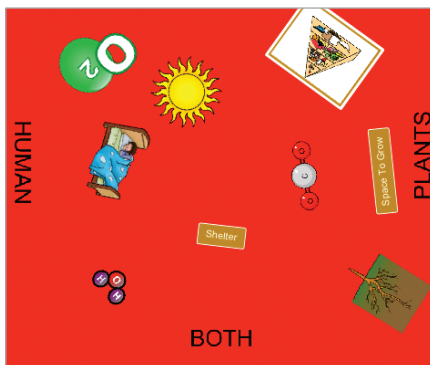
CLASSROOM CONTENT



SMART Table® activities

Developed specifically for early education classrooms, check out the growing number of [activity packs](#) for the [SMART Table interactive learning center](#) on the [SMART Exchange website](#). You can search by topic, subject or grade level to access hundreds of activities for your SMART Table. You can use SMART Table activities with small groups to complement whole-class and individual learning experiences. Most activities correspond to a SMART Notebook lesson and SMART Response question set.

Following are a few SMART Table activities you can try in your next class.



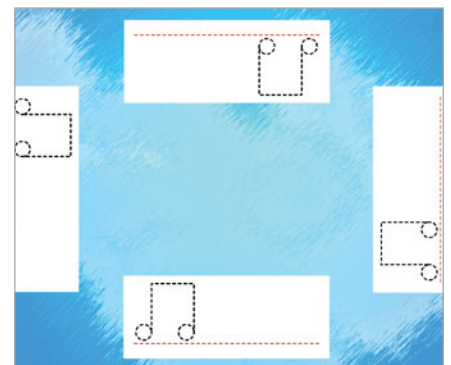
Humans and Plants Alike and Different

Students can learn about and compare the needs of humans with that of plants by matching words to pictures, discussing photographs and sorting.



Build Me a Structure

Students can explore various types of structures, like buildings, towers and bridges, and then create their own designs both on their own and in groups. Students can identify and select materials that are appropriate to build their structure.



Writing Music

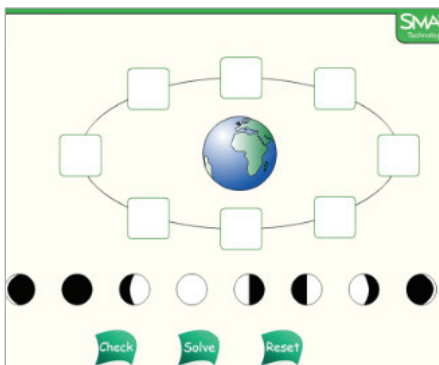
Students can review note values, such as the eighth note, quarter note, whole note and rest, and then arrange them to form rhythmic patterns to create their own musical composition.



SMART Sync™ Collaborations

With **SMART Sync classroom management software**, you can organize small groups of students and guide their process of collaboration, while still maintaining whole-class instruction, making it easy to promote individual, small-group and whole-class learning in a single lesson. You can give students an assignment to work on individually, and then use SMART Sync to randomly organize them into small groups, so they can team up and develop a consensus by sharing screens and collaborating. Then, at the end of the assignment, you can broadcast each group’s work to the entire class for further discussion.

Here are a few SMART Sync Collaborations that you can use in your next class.



Moon Phases

Fourth-grade science students can learn about and name the different phases of the moon.



Homophones

Seventh-grade English students can learn what a homophone is and then practice identifying them in a sentence.



What is My Discount?

Seventh-grade math students can learn how to apply discounts to everyday items.

SMART Notebook Tips



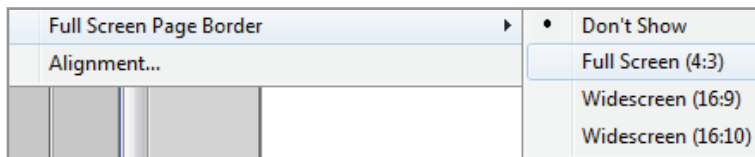
Full screen page border with hide and reveal activity

Did you know...?

You can set a page border at the bottom of your SMART Notebook page to indicate the portion of page that you can use in Full Screen mode without scrolling up or down to find and share what is there.

What's really neat about this feature is that you can also create a fun hide and reveal activity using that same page border.

If you want to give it a try, just follow these steps:



1

Select *View (Windows®)* or *Format (Mac OS)*, found just above the toolbar on your SMART Notebook page, and then select *Full Screen Page Border*.

2

Here, you'll be given screen size options to choose from: *Full Screen (4:3)*, *Widescreen (16:9)*, *Widescreen (16:10)*, or you can choose to not have a border by selecting *Don't Show*. If you choose a screen size, make sure you select the appropriate size for the display you're working on.

3

Once you've selected the screen size, a blue border will appear at the bottom of your page indicating how much space you can use without having to scroll.

Now turn this into a Hide and Reveal Activity

From here, you can begin to create your lesson and also include a hide and reveal feature using the border you just created.

4

Place anything that you want hidden from the page (until it's ready to be revealed) below the blue page border. Just make sure it's positioned how you would like it to appear once revealed.

5

When your lesson is ready, click the *View Screens* icon in the toolbar and select *Full Screen*, so that only everything above the blue border appears on the page.

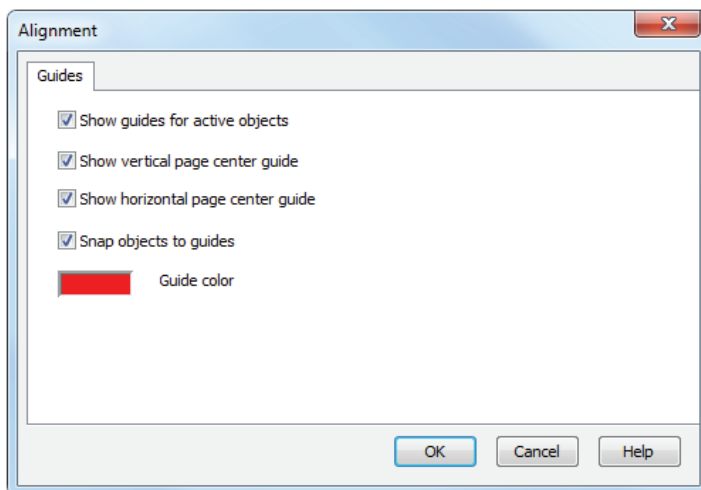
6

You'll notice you can scroll the page in full screen mode and this is how you can reveal your hidden content. When you're ready to reveal, just scroll the page down and your hidden items below the blue border will appear.

Aligning Objects

Have you been looking for an easy way to align objects with other objects on your SMART Notebook page? Well, you can now display guidelines on a page to assist you in doing just that by using the page's vertical and horizontal centers.

- 1 From your Notebook page, select *View* (Windows) or *Format* (Mac OS), and then *Alignment*. A *Guides* menu will appear on the screen giving you options to create your alignment guides. You can check all the boxes or just the ones that you need for this particular page, and then give your guidelines a color and click OK.



- 2 Depending on the boxes checked, your page will either be broken into two quadrants or four. From the *Guides* menu you can also set objects to automatically align as you move them to the page.

Download



Download SMART Notebook 11 collaborative learning software now.

If you would like your own tip featured in the magazine or on *EDCompass* blog, e-mail step-by-step instructions along with how you use the tip in your classroom to EDCompassFeedback@smarttech.com. Please include your name, city, school and district. If your tip is chosen, we'll contact you to let you know when it will appear.

SMART Tip From a Teacher

Gert Lemmens,
a teacher at Heilig Hart
Bree Secondary School in
Belgium, sent in this great
little tip for Audio Recording
in SMART Notebook 11
collaborative learning software.

I use [Audio Recording](#) to record sounds, instructions and other exercise material so that my students can listen back and learn at their own pace. Some of the ways I use this feature is when we're learning words in French. I record the words and students can play it back to practice their pronunciation.

Something else I like to do with Audio Recording is to write out an exercise in Notebook software and then dictate and record it for my students. That way, we can go through the lesson together and they can also go back to listen to the recorded exercise and catch anything they may have missed the first time.

Audio Recording has given my students another great new way to learn and retain information, in groups or on their own.

Empowering Teachers With Tools for Success

By Stacy Kindopp



A Strong Community Ignites Creativity

"If I was into tattoos, I'd have tattoos of SMART all over my body! I've been crazy about SMART products since I first got a [SMART Board interactive whiteboard](#) in my classroom," laughs Tamika Jordan, a Curriculum Technologist and [SMART Exemplary Educator](#) at [Avondale Elementary School](#) in West Memphis, Arkansas.

In 2010, Jordan was honored with a [Milken Educator Award](#) and Avondale Elementary was named a [Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School](#)

and later became a [SMART Showcase School](#). "2010 was a big year for us and all of the recognition that we received was tied into our effective use of technology," explains Jordan.

In her role as a curriculum technologist, Jordan provides training, models technology integration and collaborates with teachers to develop lesson plans that integrate technology.

"Two years ago the principal approached me to fill the curriculum technologist role. She said, either you can keep your fire and passion

for technology in your classroom for the benefit of your 20 children, or you can take on this new role and share your fire with all of our teachers and touch all 700 of our children. With that perspective, it was easy to make my decision," says Jordan.

Avondale Elementary is one of six campuses in the [Marion School District](#). The district's approach to training and professional development plays a key role in teachers' successful technology integration.

To share ideas and talk about how SMART products are being integrated into teaching and learning, the



district has a professional learning community that meets monthly. On the Avondale Elementary campus, teachers from each grade level also meet monthly.

“At the beginning of the school year in our grade level meeting, we work together to develop lesson plans for the year and include links to the corresponding [SMART Notebook collaborative learning software lessons](#). This makes it easy for everyone to access resources,” explains Jordan.

“During the meetings throughout the year, technology

is a standard on our agenda. We share tips and tricks. I always try to pick something that makes people *ooh* and *ahh!* We also share our lessons with each other through the school’s network drive. Our collaborative atmosphere ignites each other’s creativity,” says Jordan.

Finding Inspirational Resources

The [SMART Exchange website](#) has been a beneficial resource for teachers at Avondale Elementary, especially as they have begun implementing the [U.S. Common Core State Standards](#). “It’s been encouraging and exciting for us to be able to search for [standards-correlated lessons](#) on SMART Exchange,” says Jordan.

“Teachers are also happy to see that in [SMART Response assessment software 2012](#) we can tag questions by Common Core State Standards and then easily identify what we’ve taught and how our students are performing against the standards. Plus, students love using the SMART Response interactive response system and their enthusiasm drives us to create more question sets,” says Jordan.

Teachers regularly look to Jordan for training and links to useful resources. “Teachers have different learning preferences – when teachers want to do their own research and participate in

self-paced learning, I get them on the [SMART Learning Space](#),” explains Jordan, “I follow the [EDCompass blog](#) and SMART on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) and regularly share links from SMART with teachers in weekly *Tech Thursday* sessions.”

For the past two years, select teachers from the district have attended an annual [SMART training event](#) on SMART Notebook collaborative learning software. “The event was effective because we immediately had a chance to try each tool and feature what we learned. I was so inspired, and when I got back to campus I spread the new ideas like wildfire! After I attended the first event a couple years ago I was motivated to become a SMART Exemplary Educator,” says Jordan.

Recently, the district held a professional development day called *SMART Show and Share*. Teachers within the district who were advanced users of a SMART product, software feature or teaching technique offered short presentations to their peers, followed by questions and sharing. Every teacher in the district was able to attend and choose from a variety of sessions based on their individual interests.

“Teachers told us that they liked the quick presentations and gained skills that they

FEATURE ARTICLE

could immediately apply to their lesson development. During the sharing portion of each session, new ideas were sparked and it opened doors of communication between teachers from different grade levels and subject areas – increasing the spirit of collaboration across our campuses. Our teachers are asking for more events like this,” says Jordan.

Advancing Skills Through Learning Pathways

Jeff Peterson is a Secondary Curriculum Instructional Technologist for [Lamar Consolidated Independent School District](#). He is a SMART Exemplary Educator and [SMART Certified Trainer](#). “I’m known as the SMART Geek in the district – I enjoy it and I love putting in my two cents,” laughs Peterson.

The district offers a three-part training program to help



teachers get the most from their SMART products. In this learning pathway, the first session offers an introduction to SMART Notebook collaborative learning software, enabling teachers to become familiar with the basic tools, features and buttons. The second session focuses on how to make lessons more interactive and gives teachers a deeper understanding of how to leverage the software features.

“The third session is where we touch on full-blown, advanced

levels. That’s where we really start to have fun,” says Peterson.

When teachers are new to SMART products, Peterson immediately introduces them to the SMART Exchange website. “I want teachers to realize that they don’t have to start from scratch,” explains Peterson, “On SMART Exchange they can download ready-to-use lessons and modify lessons to suit their specific needs. I also like to show them the [Teachers Love SMART Boards](#) website because it’s full of resources that they can download and use.”

The district also hosts the [Interact Café](#) website, where they provide links to useful resources and printable cheat sheets for SMART products that give teachers step-by-step instructions for common tasks or the use of software features.

“When teachers are just beginning to integrate SMART products, I

“On SMART Exchange [teachers] can download ready-to-use lessons and modify lessons to suit their specific needs.”

– Jeff Peterson

Secondary Curriculum Instructional Technologies
Lamar Consolidated Independent School District
Rosenberg, Texas



will often help them by importing their old PowerPoint® presentation into SMART Notebook software. Then, I'll transform the lesson from a teacher-led presentation to an interactive lesson that puts the teacher at the back of the room and the students at the SMART Board."

"Once I've done that for a teacher once, I'll have buy-in. Once they sit down with me and I show them how easy it is to import their PowerPoint and add interactive activities to the lesson, they see how easy it is to do themselves and start moving forward," says Peterson.

Organizing Your SMART Notebook Files

Peterson has tips for organizing files to help teachers save time. "I encourage teachers to create a single SMART Notebook file for each unit. Then, add extras such as videos or documents to the attachments tab within SMART Notebook. Now, instead of having to keep track of 45 files

"I'll transform the lesson from a teacher-led presentation to an interactive lesson that puts the teacher at the back of the room and the students at the SMART Board."

– Jeff Peterson

Secondary Curriculum
Instructional Technologies
Lamar Consolidated Independent
School District

for that unit there is only one file. And when files are stored on a network drive, other teachers will have access to everything," says Peterson.

"If you create a single SMART Notebook file for each unit, you can use the *Page Groups* feature in the software to divide the unit into chapters or daily lessons. I love to show teachers the *Page Groups* feature. They can use it to jump straight to the section for the day and start teaching," says Peterson.

The new features in SMART Notebook 11 collaborative learning software have increased the ease of use for teachers and created a new zest for lesson development in technologically literate teachers. "We're really having fun with the widgets in SMART Notebook 11. The **Voki Avatar** widget is extremely popular. Teachers love to use these speaking avatars for giving instructions. And the **Activity Builder** is one of the tools that is at the top of everybody's favorite new features' list," says Peterson.

Create Your Learning Pathway

SMART offers numerous resources to help you gain skills and take interactive lessons to new heights. Explore our resources on the next two pages to find ready-to-use digital content, access training and professional development opportunities, connect with your peers and more.

Get Ready-to-Use Digital Content, Best Practices and Tips



Access over 60,000 Digital Resources on the SMART Exchange website

On the SMART Exchange website you can quickly find, evaluate and download a variety of ready-to-use digital content created by educators, top education publishers and SMART. Visit exchange.smarttech.com.



Enhance Your Lessons With Gallery Essentials

SMART Notebook software includes Gallery Essentials, which offers over 7,000 learning objects to enhance your lessons, including images, backgrounds, dynamic Flash files, video and audio content.



Visit the EDCompass blog

Discover best practices, tips for using SMART products, blog posts from your peers, training resources, interviews with educators, product news, links to ready-made lessons and more – all of which help you increase student engagement. Visit EDCompassblog.smarttech.com.

Participate in Training and Professional Development

Complete a SMART Training Needs Assessment

To help you identify your training needs, SMART has created a short survey that will assess your current skills and provide a learning path of recommended courses. Complete the [needs assessment](#).

Explore Free Training Resources

Access Two-Minute Tutorials, YouTube demonstrations, Quick Reference Guides and more through our [free training resources](#).

Join the SMART Learning Space

The SMART Learning Space is a virtual learning environment that makes it easy for you to plan, access and keep track of your training. Visit smarttech.com/learningspace.

View SMART Webinars

Find new ways to enhance participation and collaboration and learn how to integrate SMART products into your schools. [Browse on-demand sessions and upcoming webinars](#).

Watch SMART Products in Action on YouTube and TeacherTube

Find ideas and inspiration for teaching with SMART products by viewing SMART's channels on [YouTube](#) and [TeacherTube](#).

Get the SMART Training app for iPhone/iPad

The SMART Training app for iPhone/iPad enables you to access SMART Notebook lessons and explore a wide variety of interactive content. Learn more at smarttech.com/training.

Connect with SMART and Your Peers



Participate in the Community Forums on SMART Exchange

Participate in the community forums to connect with colleagues to exchange lesson activities, ideas, insights and classroom success stories. Visit exchange.smarttech.com/forum.



Like us on Facebook

Check our regular Facebook postings to learn about new customer resources, get the latest news from SMART and find out which trade shows and conferences we're attending. Visit facebook.com/smartclassrooms.



Follow us on Twitter

We tweet regularly about our latest events, new products, contest announcements and stories from people around the world who are succeeding with SMART products. Follow us at twitter.com/smart_tech.

Gain Flexibility With SMART Notebook Express and iOS Apps



Work Anywhere With SMART Notebook Express™

Work with SMART Notebook files anywhere with SMART Notebook Express. To view, interact and save SMART Notebook files from any device, visit express.smarttech.com.



Get the SMART Notebook app for iPad

The SMART Notebook app for iPad enables students to open their own version of a SMART Notebook lesson on their iPad and take it with them, wherever they go. Learn more at smarttech.com/notebookapp.



Get the Apple iPad application for Bridgit conferencing software

The Apple iPad application for Bridgit® conferencing software enables you to create or join sessions from your iPad and interact with content on an interactive display. Learn more at smarttech.com/bridgit.

What's Happening



Head back to school with SMART Training and Professional Development

Over the next few months, SMART is holding a number of professional development sessions in Virginia, Texas, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada. And as you head back to a classroom with SMART products, there's no better time to receive training to help hone your skills.

Take a look at some of the upcoming training events to find out if one is near you. Be sure to click into the links to find other dates and locations.

| DATE | LOCATION | EVENT |
|------------------------|--|--|
| September 13 | Arlington, Virginia (SMART Sales Office) | PD Plus SMART Notebook Math Tools |
| September 18–20 | Houston, Texas | SMART Notebook collaborative learning software certification |
| October 17 | South Milwaukee, Wisconsin | SMART Lesson Development Workshop Intermediate |
| October 18 | South Milwaukee, Wisconsin | SMART Lesson Development Workshop Advanced |
| October 30– November 1 | Forth Worth, Texas | SMART Notebook and SMART Response training certification |
| November 7 | Forth Worth, Texas | PD Plus SMART Response interactive response software |
| November 20–22 | Kanata, Ontario, Canada | SMART Notebook and SMART Response training certification |

To learn about SMART's other course offerings, visit smarttech.com/training.



Global Research Finds Personal Devices and Interactive Whiteboards Add More Value when used Together

A study involving more than 300 educators from around the world reveals that using both interactive whiteboards and personal devices such as tablets or PCs in the classroom provides more value than using either on their own. When used together, the ability to shift easily between whole-class, small group and individual learning is enhanced. Study participants also indicated that interactive whiteboards can drive more value than PCs or tablets alone. The study, conducted by Filigree Consulting, an independent consulting firm, on behalf of SMART, also found that instructional technology works most effectively when it is combined with teacher training, high-quality digital content and implementation best practices.

According to results, 70 percent of respondents who had a high-level of collaborative learning adoption combined with best practices reported receiving above average returns on their technology investment, including gains in student achievement. By contrast, nearly half of the educators who had implemented instructional technology without a developed strategy reported below average returns.

The results of the study have been published in a white paper entitled *Instructional Technology and Collaborative Learning Best Practices: Global Report and Recommendations*. It concludes that while the best value from technology adoption comes from those who implement a variety of instructional technology tools and focus on best practices, only 20 percent of those surveyed had achieved this level

of maturity. Participants who followed this approach reported up to three times greater results than those at a lower level of collaboration maturity on outcomes such as:

- Ability to test and implement new teaching models
- Tangible gain in student achievement
- Student engagement as measured by decrease in absenteeism and decrease in discipline referrals
- Retaining and recruiting quality teachers
- Teacher efficiency and effectiveness
- Improved student experience

Based on the survey, an assessment tool has been created allowing teachers and administrators to determine the value derived from their instructional technology and key areas to work on in order to move to the next level of maturity. The assessment tool consists of an online survey that can be taken by any member of an organization. The survey will then produce comparative results based on education best practices and offer recommendations on how to implement further initiatives to achieve better outcomes and reach a higher level of maturity related to technology investments. For more information, and to take the assessment survey, visit smarttech.com/educationassessment.

Supporting new learning methods with SMART products

By Wendy McMahon



Staff at [Christopher Columbus High School \(CCHS\)](#) in Miami, Florida have been finding innovative and effective ways to engage students with SMART products since opening the box of their first [SMART Board interactive whiteboard](#) in 2004. Eight years later, this private school for boys has equipped all 65 of its classrooms with a SMART Board interactive whiteboard, has a growing SMART Board users group and has been named a [SMART Elite Showcase School](#) for 2012.

Teachers at the school use SMART Board interactive whiteboards, [SMART Notebook collaborative learning software](#) and [SMART Response interactive response systems](#) daily. These educators are enthusiastic about sharing their best practices and knowledge of SMART products – or sharing the “SMART joy” as they like to call it.

SMART sharing

Mary T. McCullagh is the perfect example of someone who likes to share the “SMART joy.”

McCullagh, a [SMART Exemplary Educator](#), was one of the first teachers at the school to receive a SMART Board interactive whiteboard and quickly became an expert, volunteering her time to train and coach her colleagues. That prompted her to start the SMART Board Users UNITE group where teachers gather to share ideas, lessons, tips and tricks. “The SMART Board is something that I love using every day and I love being able to share it - teachers become much more confident using this technology,” she explains.

McCullagh, who teaches social studies, turns on her SMART Board interactive whiteboard the minute she walks into her classroom and doesn’t turn it off until the end of the day. “I want to be able to engage the kids much more actively and SMART Notebook does that for me,” she explains. “Being able to have visual, audio and video while we’re talking about a topic, takes advantage of all the different intelligences that the kids have.”

Improving comprehension

McCullagh’s volunteer training and support has led other CCHS teachers, like Erin Mcgrath, to discover new ways to make learning easier for students using SMART products. Mcgrath, who teaches English, algebra and drama, had never used a SMART Board interactive whiteboard before joining Christopher Columbus High School three years ago. But these days she says student comprehension has improved thanks to her SMART Board interactive whiteboard and SMART Notebook

"I want to be able to engage the kids much more actively and SMART Notebook does that for me."

Mary T. McCullagh

Teacher

Christopher Columbus High School
Miami, Florida

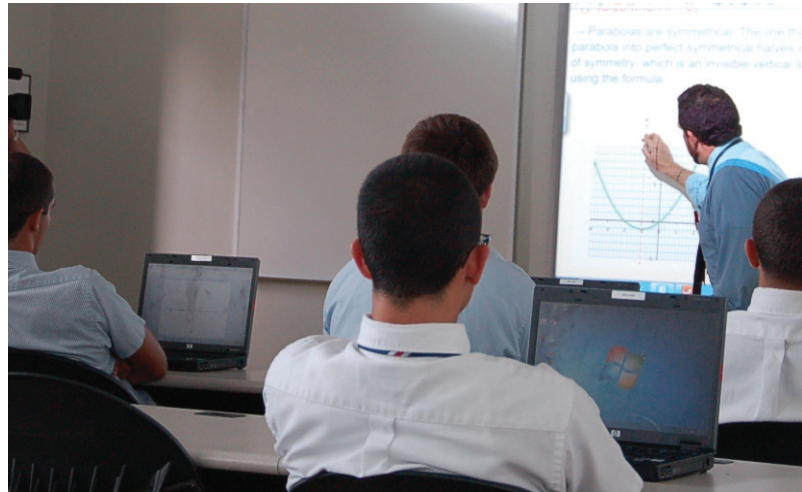
software. "I have found that the SMART Board has really helped make learning algebra easier for those students who struggle in math as well as those who are just visual learners in general," she explains.

One strategy Mcgrath has found successful for increasing student understanding in her classes is using the features of SMART Notebook software to colour code algebra equations. "If it's all just black and white or it's all just on a chalkboard it can seem like a lot of work, or a lot of letters, or a lot of numbers all at once, and that can be very frustrating, especially for math students," explains Mcgrath.

She says colourful, visually appealing lessons make it easier for students to comprehend the content.

Flipping the classroom

For math department leader and teacher Carlos Moro, the discovery of just one feature of SMART Notebook software has completely changed his classes. During a SMART training course, Moro was introduced to the SMART Recorder tool, which records a screencast and sound, and in his words, he was "blown away." At first he used the tool to record lectures for substitute teachers to play if he knew he would be away for a day.



Now, Moro records all of his lectures and posts them on YouTube for students to watch as their homework - leaving class time open to work on problems, ask questions and receive support – a practice also known as [flipped learning](#).

He has noticed a marked increase in students who didn't have very good note-taking skills. "For students that maybe couldn't get everything while I'm teaching, this is a great way for them to follow up. This is a good way for students to listen and watch, and then at home they can take notes at their own pace and on their own time."

Moro says flipping his classroom took extra work but having tools like the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, SMART Notebook software and SMART Response systems to support his efforts was the key to his success. And of course, knowing that he is supporting his students is worth the added effort.

"I get a satisfaction that is just priceless to me when I know that I did a good job and I reached a student and I helped him learn. That's really powerful."



Your school can become a SMART Showcase School and be recognized for using SMART collaborative learning solutions to create exceptional learning environments. If selected, your school will receive exclusive membership benefits and opportunities. It will have an opportunity to share its success story and serve as a host site for other educators who want to find out about the benefits of implementing SMART products. [Learn more](#).

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT



Interactivity in any Space

LightRaise interactive projectors

Like many schools, yours may have a few spaces where you don't quite know how to incorporate interactive technology – maybe you want to preserve existing whiteboarding space, or you have an area that's only used sporadically, or perhaps you just want more opportunities for interactive learning within your classrooms.

Regardless of the situation, if students are using these spaces to learn, their experience can be enhanced with the right technology.

The **LightRaise™ 40wi interactive projector** is designed to add interactivity to your unique learning areas and collaboration spaces,

using the power of **SMART Notebook collaborative learning software**. Our interactive projector combines projection and interactivity in an ultra-short throw projector, turning almost any existing surface into an interactive learning space.

High-impact lessons

With the LightRaise 40wi, you and your students can interact with the same powerful software you already use in your traditional learning environments. It brings the power of SMART Notebook software to areas like gymnasiums, auditoriums, all-purpose rooms and collaboration spaces. You'll have access to dynamic lesson creation

and delivery tools, and nearly 60,000 digital resources on the [SMART Exchange website](#).

Because the 40wi comes with SMART Notebook software, you can also easily add assessment capabilities with **SMART Response interactive response systems** or further increase interactivity with the **SMART Document Camera** or **SMART Slate wireless slate**.

Interactivity meets flexibility

With the LightRaise interactive projector, you have the ability to teach and interact with digital content on almost any flat, smooth, light-colored surfaces, including dry-erase whiteboards and painted walls. It comes with an interactive, rechargeable pen that enables you to write in digital ink, open files and control lesson content easily. You can use the pen to interact with content up to 30' (9.1 m) away – the 40wi projects an invisible pattern that the pen's built-in camera communicates with using a radio frequency.

The 40wi also enables you to create screen sizes of up to 100" (254 cm) on the diagonal, and because of its ultra-short throw projection, there are virtually no shadows or glare. A 10-watt speaker and microphone input add audio capabilities.

The LightRaise 40wi interactive projector is available now. For more information, visit smarttech.com/lightraise or watch this [video](#).



An area of opportunity

Sarah Rawlinson, product manager for LightRaise interactive projectors, discusses the need for interactive projectors, how they create new opportunities for teaching and learning and how they fit within SMART's line of education products.

Why did SMART create an interactive projector?

Our goal is to offer a full line of interactive displays that fit in a variety of learning environments. SMART Board interactive whiteboards are ideal for traditional classroom teaching where interactivity is paramount. Interactive projectors are perfect for larger spaces like gymnasiums or auditoriums, or for classrooms that want to keep traditional dry-erase whiteboards. Regardless of the hardware, all of SMART's interactive displays are fully integrated with SMART Notebook software and provide access to content on the SMART Exchange website.



What is your favorite feature of the 40wi?

I love the flexibility it offers. You can use existing whiteboards, empty wall space or a purpose-built screen – whatever best fits your requirements. And of course, the integration with SMART Notebook software and access to content on SMART Exchange is what makes the 40wi unique compared to any other interactive projector.

What are educators' reactions? How do they envision using this product?

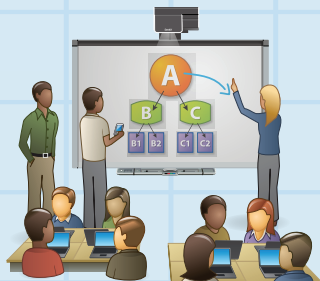
The initial reaction has been great. Most educators want to maximize the amount of interactivity they can provide, but they often have a requirement for a traditional dry-erase whiteboard for basic classroom tasks such as homework lists, schedules, to-do's, etcetera. The Lightraise projectors are ideal because they give educators the option of using a dry-erase whiteboard in the traditional way, or using them to create an interactive surface for students and teachers.

QUIZ:

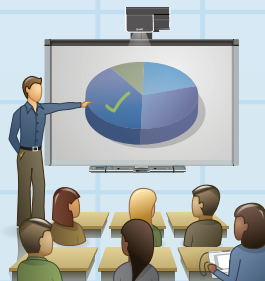
What's the right interactive product for your classrooms?

1

In the majority of your classrooms, what kind of learning do teachers want to promote?



A. Collaborative learning



B. Directed learning

2

What best describes your learning environments?



3

Are there teachers in your school who would like to preserve their existing whiteboard space?

A. No

B. Yes

4

Do you feel that touch and/or multitouch capabilities are important aspects of classroom collaboration?

5

Do you have students in your school who haven't developed fine motor skills?

A. Yes

B. No

6

What do you feel is more important?

If you answered mostly As,

your ideal interactive product is a SMART Board interactive whiteboard! Interactive whiteboards provide the richest level of interaction and collaboration available for classrooms today. They enable teachers and students to use their finger, a pen or another object to interact with digital content – making them a flexible, intuitive tool.

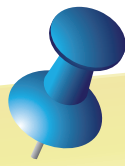
If you answered mostly Bs,

LightRaise interactive projectors are the best products for your environments. They provide interactivity in spaces that can't readily accommodate an interactive whiteboard, and they are ideal for teachers who want to deliver digital content in a directed learning setting. With LightRaise projectors, schools can leverage their existing dry-erase whiteboards or make the most of awkward wall space.

If you chose a mix of As and Bs,

your school would benefit from a combination of both SMART Board interactive whiteboards and LightRaise interactive projectors. Both come with SMART Notebook software, so teachers throughout the school can use the same collaborative learning software to share lesson files and access ready-made resources from the SMART Exchange website.

You can also find out if you are getting the most value from your technology investment by taking 20 minutes to complete an assessment at smarttech.com/educationassessment



The launch of the LightRaise 40wi means that spaces you never dreamed could be interactive, can now become areas where extraordinary learning happens. But it begs the question - what is the best choice for your learning environments - an interactive whiteboard or an interactive projector?

A. Most are standard classroom size with a lot of wall space

B. Every room is different and we have a lot of unique areas or small areas where learning takes place

A. Yes

B. No

A. Enabling student participation and collaboration on digital lessons

B. Delivering lessons in a digital format



The power to empower

Visit smarttech.com/accessibility.

