



Bowden Grandview School

Using the SMART Board to Develop Model Technology Classrooms

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A Vision of Technology in the Classroom

Lyall Thomson, Principal of Bowden Grandview School in central Alberta, has a clear vision of how technology should be used in schools. By bringing the SMART Board into its Macintosh® computer lab, the school has created a "Model Teaching Classroom" for students of all ages. Lyall says the philosophy behind the Classroom is a fundamental belief that, "Classrooms are not driven by technology, they are driven by the curriculum." He explains, "We haven't thrown away our textbooks or discarded our *traditional* teaching methods. Instead, we're using the SMART Board to strengthen our daily program and encourage student participation. This allows students to learn team dynamics as well as new technology." Whatever the reason, students at Bowden Grandview School can't wait to take their turn in the Model Technology Classroom, simply because of the enjoyment they gain from it! Student, Jackie Sroka remarks after using the SMART Board in the Classroom, "This class is definitely more fun than a regular class!"

Interactive Learning is SMARTer Learning

Lyall sees the SMART Board as a window to all kinds of curriculum related information. "The Board puts word processing, listening to CD's, and communication via the Internet, right there at students' fingertips." Biology teacher Trudy Mills adds, "My students have accessed MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans of the brain from Harvard University. They've also viewed the Shoemaker-Levy Comet hitting Jupiter via the Hubble space telescope. These experiences are exciting and really motivate the students to learn."

It's Canadian, eh?

Appropriate courseware for computer learning is often an issue for Canadian schools. Teacher, Alana Racher finds, "Software and programs geared for courses like Social Studies, tend to be rooted in American history. This makes it difficult to find materials based on the Canadian or Albertan curriculum." Trudy Mills has met this challenge by designing her own courseware. Working with either HyperStudio®, ClarisWorks, or the Internet, Trudy projects her self-developed computer slides onto the SMART Board. As she moves through her presentation, she uses the "hot buttons" to display the next slide or divert to a more detailed discussion of the topic. "This feature proves very useful during my lesson on the human respiratory system because it allows me to zoom-in on specific segments of the bronchial tree," says Trudy.

Payoffs of the SMART Board

The teachers at Bowden Grandview have identified a unique way of reducing software costs for their school. "As part of a Language Arts exercise, junior high students worked collaboratively on the SMART Board, to create a series of picture books. These books were then used to teach the basics of reading to students at the elementary level," explains Alana Racher. "It was a great exercise for both groups of students and may lead to future tutoring projects between different grade levels."