



Project ELITE at Delwood Elementary A SMARTer Teacher

Background

Stephanie Busby, a teacher at Delwood Elementary School in Edmonton, Alberta is participating in a unique education pilot project. Project ELITE (Electronic Learning and Information Technologies in Education) involves the use of content-based multimedia programs in Social Studies. ELITE delivers Grade 5 curriculum-specific material via a broadband educational network to six classrooms in addition to traditional forms of information from textbooks. The project is designed to test how the use of technologies in schools affects learning outcomes within the curriculum. One such technology being used with the project is the SMART Board™.

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SMART Board in Action

Since using the SMART Board, Stephanie's teaching has become more efficient and effective because now she "...can give an all-class instruction step-by-step, and they (the students) can all see the lesson material from any part of the room."

Stephanie also likes to give her Grade 5 students independent time at the SMART Board. The students use the SMART Board mainly for presenting reports to the class. Some students presented their reports using word processors where they cut and pasted the pictures and placed them in electronic folders in the ELITE program. Other students would incorporate pre-recorded audio as well as pictures and videos to accompany their reports, touching buttons on the SMART Board to activate or advance a slide.

Stephanie remarks, "They're enthralled with it. One of the boys was showing where the Woodlands people lived in Eastern Canada, and he took a marker and shaded in the area of where they were. Quite a spectacular alternative to shading it in on a printed piece of paper."

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Project Elite and SMART

Stephanie's new lecturing style since the arrival of the SMART Board has helped Project ELITE be more effective in her classroom. For example, if she is going to teach a lesson regarding any Social Studies concepts or skills, she can have the information printed up beforehand and then display it all on the SMART Board for the students to see. "Overall...I can prepare all my lesson plans and any written instructions ahead of time, and I can just present it to the students and at the same time to a wider audience than I would be able to if I was just using a computer."

The enthusiastic response of the students, as demonstrated through their innovative class presentations, is phenomenal. Based on Stephanies' experiences with the SMART Board in the classroom, she concludes that "the Board makes it exciting for the kids. I would like a SMART Board in every classroom."