



Differentiated instruction

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As an educator, you've come to learn that not all students are alike and that you have to be flexible in your approach to teaching. In this issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, you can read examples about how educators are differentiating their instruction to meet the needs of every student. You'll also find out how to join the SMART Exchange, our new and improved online forum, and be the first to learn about the next generation of the SMART Board™ 600i interactive whiteboard system, designed specifically with you in mind.

Your feedback is important! In the past few issues, we've created a new look for the newsletter and included new content. We want to know what you think, so please send in your comments to education@smarttech.com.

NANCY'S NOTES

The same ... but different



My family is really good at talking, laughing and telling stories. At a recent family event Dave and I hosted, I heard my brother and sisters talking about different parts of our childhood. I remembered a lot of what they described, but I was struck by the difference in perspective. And then it hit me – although we all grew up in the same family, had the same parents and experienced many of the same things, we all had our own special perspective and, in fact, different childhoods.

And so it must be in a classroom. It would be tempting to assume that all children learn the same way and react similarly to various stimuli. It certainly would make a teacher's job easier to follow one approach and have all the children immediately understand. The reality is far different and well it should be. People are unique and so are their preferred learning styles. And life situations vary. We cannot assume we will know everyone's background because we won't. There is a certain amount of ambiguity and difference in every situation.

Having variety in learning experiences, following different routes to end at the same destination and appreciating the differences in others are all part of learning in a 21st-century classroom. The tools that SMART delivers today help teachers use technology, content and differentiated strategies to reach all learners. The perspectives that each student has of learning and the classroom experience may not be the same, but our goal is to get them all to be educated, productive citizens, ready to contribute their special abilities and perspectives to society.

Nancy Knowlton is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

CLASSROOM CONTENT

'Tis the season to decorate your lessons!

Did you know that the [Essentials for Educators](#) folder in Notebook™ collaborative learning software's Gallery includes a collection of holiday-themed pictures, backgrounds and pages for your lesson activities? You can find these themes by searching

- People and Culture
- Special Occasions
- Holidays

If you don't have Essentials for Educators, you can [download](#) it from our website.

We also have lesson activities focused on the traditions and spirit of Christmas. These, along with hundreds of high-quality [lesson activities](#) (many of which offer tips for differentiation) are available through the education solutions website. Each lesson is correlated to local curriculum standards and created by teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Celebrate the season with the following Christmas lesson activities. There's also an activity to help you practice differentiation.

[Christmas Activities](#)

Language arts students in grades 1–3 can complete Christmas word games and crossword puzzles, and even build a snowman!

[Christmas Math Fun](#)

Math students in grades 4–6 can practice addition and subtraction, money, and time word problems.

[Four Key Events in the 20th Century](#)

Social studies students in grades 7–9 can identify the main causes of four key events in the 20th century. Differentiation can be achieved by adding various website links and customizing the questions to help students explore the different historic events.

NEWS

Join the SMART Exchange

Have you visited our new and improved online gathering place for educators? Launched earlier this month, [SMART Exchange](#) replaced the Bulletin Board with an online community that connects you to a growing network of educators around the world who are eager to share their enthusiasm, tips and resources for using interactive classroom technology.

Join the SMART Exchange, and get instantly connected with educators to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices.

- Get the latest information on SMART-sponsored events
- Talk to SMART employees for support, information and tips
- Provide your input on SMART products and programs



We'll continue adding resources, so watch for new features like membership badges and threads focused on your regional area.



SMART software titles honored at EDDIES



Two of SMART's popular software applications

were recently recognized at the annual Education Software Review Awards (EDDIES). SMART Board software won in the Teacher Tools: Productivity category, and SMART Ideas™ concept-mapping software won in the Multilevel: Thinking Skills category. This is the fourth consecutive year that SMART has won EDDIE awards.

The EDDIE awards recognize innovative and content-rich software from software publishers worldwide that provide parents and teachers alike with technology to foster educational excellence. The judging process is based on academic content, potential for broad classroom use, technical merit, subject approach and management system. Read SMART's [media release](#).

NEWS

SMART Learning Marketplace



Have you signed up for your free 30-day trial of the [SMART Learning Marketplace](#), the largest repository of dedicated online education content available? If not, sign up now because the trial is available for a limited time only.

When you join the Learning Marketplace, you get access to the world's top education publishers, technology and software educators, and museums.

In this issue, we're highlighting [Bridgeman Education](#), where you can find a visual repository of cultural images from every civilization, Mesopotamia to Mesoamerica, and from every period, prehistoric times to the present. Through the Marketplace, you can search across 1,600 sources, 8,000 locations and 30,000 artists. Find hidden treasures from private collections around the world, including photography, fine art, sculpture, architecture, archaeology and ethnography, history, science and medicine. The Bridgeman Education collection is constantly growing in size and diversity and is updated daily. Marketplace subscribers have access to some 250,000 high-quality images from Bridgeman.

Recommended search terms for educators

Here are some popular search terms for various grade levels. Use them in your lessons, and uncover some great pieces of content.

K-3	artists, square, transport, clothes, dinosaurs
4-6	electrical conductors, fractions, earth, planets, angels, animals
7-8	reproductive system, maps, states
9-12	poetry, geometry

FEATURE ARTICLE

Differentiation – it's all about technology

"It's not the classroom I grew up in! I don't want to go back to the old days," says Betty Copeland, a tenth-grade math instructor at Worcester Technical High School in Massachusetts. She feels fortunate to be teaching at the most high-tech school in the Worcester district. The school is outfitted with a plethora of SMART products, including front- and rear-projection SMART Board interactive whiteboards, Symposium™ interactive pen displays, AirLiner™ wireless slates and Senteo™ interactive response systems. And with these products in her classroom, Copeland feels she has all the tools she needs to effectively respond to the various learning needs of her students. [Read the full article.](#)

CLASSROOM CONTENT

Congratulations to our winners!

Thanks to all our readers who created and submitted their lesson activities for the contest announced in the August edition of the newsletter – we received over 100 submissions! It was a hard choice, but seven winners were selected by a judging panel, based on presentation and layout, effective use of Notebook software features, originality and variety.

The winners in each category are listed below. Visit our website to download the [winning entries](#), and see how these teachers used Notebook software to appeal to students with a variety of learning styles.

Best core curriculum

Lori Reed, Kress Elementary School, Kress, Texas

Best non-core curriculum

Michelle Nebel, Lewis Elementary, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

Best presentation and layout

Christine Ames Wolzl, Maryview Catholic School, Red Deer, Alberta

Best use of Notebook software features

Jonnie Holt, Beaufort Elementary School, Beaufort, South Carolina

Best primary activity

Deborah Miller, École St. Avila, Winnipeg, Manitoba

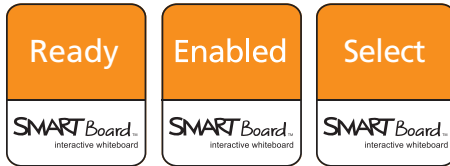
Best secondary activity

Joseph Saccone, Eastchester High School, Eastchester, New York

Best Senteo interactive response system activity

Ann Joyce, Our Lady of Lourdes School, Washington, Missouri

SMART-accredited software



The [SMART Software Accreditation Program](#) identifies content and software based on its level of compatibility and customization for SMART Board interactive whiteboards and Symposium interactive pen displays. Our website includes a complete listing of titles. This list will be updated on a quarterly basis, so revisit this page to find new SMART-accredited titles.

Take a look at some of the newest SMART-accredited titles:

[Orchard Software 4–6 Language Arts Bundle](#) provides targeted language arts activities that focus on reading, writing and grammar, and use a variety of instructional approaches that meet individual learning needs. The 23 modules in this bundle address comprehension and critical thinking. K–3 and grades 7–9 bundles are also available, combining to make a total of 88 modules.

[Symphony Math](#) is an educational software program for elementary students designed to improve problem-solving skills and develop a strong mathematical foundation. The program adapts to the specific needs of each student. As the student progresses, the program provides increasingly complex challenges along each developmental pathway.

[Kurzweil 3000](#) is a reading, writing and learning software program that helps struggling secondary students (including ELL students and students with special needs) learn the same content as their classmates. With this software, you can differentiate instruction without having to modify the curriculum.

Celebrating diversity



[George Washington Elementary](#) in Kingsport, Tennessee, is a K–5 multiage school, which means each classroom has students of various ages and abilities. For example, K–2 students are grouped together in primary classrooms and grade three–five students in intermediate. All students are assessed to determine where they are developmentally so teachers can provide instruction based on individual needs. In a school like this, the ability to differentiate instruction is all important. And this is where SMART products play a key role.

Barbara Sanders, administrative assistant to the principal at George Washington Elementary, says the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and Notebook software offer a wealth of activities and resources that help to provide a differentiated environment for the students. She explains that the students in K–2 math groups are all using the same templates and activities in Notebook software, but the lessons themselves are modified to help students with different learning abilities. In addition, auditory learners benefit from lesson activities with sound, and kinesthetic learners like being able to touch objects to manipulate them.

Lesson activities are easily accessible from Notebook software’s Gallery, and Sanders says, “The teachers love the SMART lesson activities that are right at their fingertips, already developed and correlated to the Tennessee state standards.”

Because of their dedication to technology and the positive results that SMART products are producing, George Washington received SMART Showcase School status in 2007, and they have been sharing their success with other schools in Tennessee as well as in their own district. Representatives from neighboring schools spend time in their classrooms observing the interaction between students and teachers and their SMART Board interactive whiteboards. They always walk away intrigued at what they have witnessed in these classrooms – the integration of the interactive whiteboard in all aspects of the curriculum, its motivational value and the way it can help lesson planning for teachers.

SMART’s cutting-edge products have revitalized pedagogy and enabled teachers at George Washington Elementary to celebrate the diversity of their students. “Students are excited about working on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, and when students are engaged in learning, they are going to make meaningful connections,” says Cookie Greer, the school’s principal. “Whether they’re learning in a group setting or on their own, our teachers have found a multitude of ways to utilize the lesson activities, and they’ve only scratched the tip of the iceberg.”

If you would like to visit George Washington Elementary School or find a Showcase School in your area, visit the [SMART Showcase School](#) section on our website.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

New 600i coming soon

The **SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system** was first launched in 2006. The short-throw projector with the interactive whiteboard reduces shadows and allows you to focus on engaging your students rather than wrestling with a multitude of hardware. It is an all-in-one centralized instruction station that enables you to switch from one multimedia source to another.

What's new?

The next generation SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system is tailored specifically to educators. This new version of the 600i will include the following enhancements:

- More affordable, enabling schools and districts to outfit more classrooms
- Improved brightness and color quality to give you a sharper image in your lessons
- Improved Unifi™ 45 projector boom protects against potential damage

Used with Notebook software, the SMART Learning Marketplace and other curriculum resources, the 600i system becomes an essential teaching tool. The system comes with all the interactive features, quality, training and best-in-class education software that you've come to expect from a SMART product.



Quick facts

- Combines short-throw Unifi 45 projector and SMART Board 680 interactive whiteboard
- Projection shadows greatly reduced
- One button starts the entire system
- True color quality, and high levels of brightness and contrast for clear, crisp image
- Add and switch between classroom peripherals, such as laptops, VCRs, DVD players and digital cameras
- Quick and easy installation
- Comes with feature-rich Notebook software
- All the cables are concealed behind the SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- Three-year warranty on the Unifi projector, 90-day or 500-hour warranty on lamp
- Available February 2008

Tips and tricks



Students come in all different sizes, and for some, it can be difficult to reach objects that appear higher up on the interactive whiteboard. You can accessorize your SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system with a height-adjustable wall mount to help smaller students reach the screen easily. A smooth adjustment that can be made with one hand allows you to raise and lower your 600i. The wall mount adjusts by 20" (50 cm) and locks the entire system at its highest position.

Preview at FETC and TCEA

We are previewing the new 600i system at these upcoming trade shows. Drop by our booth for a demonstration, and see how this integrated system can save you time and money and help you to engage your students.

January 22–25, 2008

Florida Education Technology Conference (FETC)

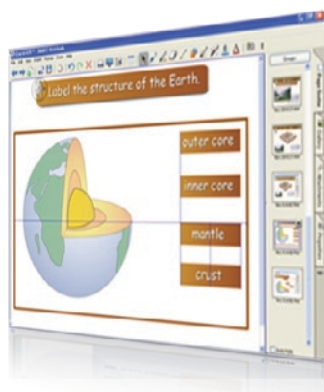
Booth 142
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

February 4–8, 2008

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)

Booth 2055
Austin Convention Center
Austin, Texas

Countdown to Notebook software 10



Active Alignment

This new feature allows you to accurately align objects horizontally or vertically to any object on the page.

For example, when you are using Active Alignment to set up a lesson activity, you'll automatically know your headings, written text and pictures are aligned on your Notebook page. In addition, Active Alignment provides horizontal and vertical guidelines, so you'll always be able to identify the center point on the page.

Would you like to beta test Notebook software 10?

We're looking for teachers to try out the new version when the beta goes live in January. E-mail beta@smarttech.com if you would like to be added to the list.

Keep watching this monthly column for more new features coming out in Notebook software 10.

Up next

Watch for the next issue of *EDCompass* newsletter titled *Committed to Educators*, coming out mid-January. In this issue, you can find out what SMART has planned for FETC in January and TCEA in February. You'll also learn how SMART's new classroom audio system will help students hear clearly wherever they are in the classroom.

Teacher testimonial

"SMART easily produces a better product than any other interactive whiteboard company out there, and it should be obvious to anyone."

Alan Siegel

W. C. Carlé High School in Lower Lake County, California, is an award-winning continuation high school of approximately 90 students and is considered a national leader in alternative education. Alan Siegel, grade 10–12 teacher, says his students are daunted by academics, but not by technology. His students can't wait to get their hands on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

This school year, the decision was made to remove the brand of interactive whiteboard that had previously been installed at the high school in 2006 and use SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard systems instead. Teachers felt they weren't achieving what they needed to with the other brand of interactive whiteboard. They heard about the benefits of the 600i system and liked the idea of the SMART product being an easy-to-use, software-rich, all-in-one system. Teachers at the school felt the 600i would be more seamless and intuitive for them and their students.

Prior to having the SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system, teachers had to arrive to class half an hour early each day to hook up media sources they wanted to use. They had to realign the interactive whiteboard before each period, but now they're using the 600i system, they don't have to worry about that any more.

Within a day, teachers using their new 600i's excitedly acknowledged how much more intuitive the system was compared to the previous interactive whiteboard brand. They commented that the other brand required too much of a learning curve. "The greatness of the 600i is that it's an integrated system, and everything you need is right there and easy to use," says Siegel.

Spreading awareness and building excitement

Siegel recently highlighted the benefits of the 600i to teachers at a neighboring high school that currently uses the other brand of interactive whiteboard. He demonstrated the higher quality of the 600i and its superior software. "Within minutes teachers were sold on the SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system," says Siegel. "The 600i is so much more intuitive. Everything you can do in one easy step on a SMART Board interactive whiteboard takes at least three cumbersome steps on the interactive whiteboards they're using."

"The way the menu is set up, I can have multiple sources going at the same time, and with one flick of a button I can go between them," says Siegel. "As we speak, the Star Wars DVD is playing on my 600i, and my students are annotating over it for a project they're working on. I'm comfortable leaving them in the classroom without supervision because I know they're motivated to do the work, and they're having fun with the project.... I love that the 600i enables them to be creative."

How will the new 600i impact lessons?

Siegel says the improved color and image quality will further enhance the detail of lessons. Streaming and still video will look better and the text will be sharper. "The quality of interaction with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard is top notch and the software is the best that I've seen," says Siegel. "These improvements will make the 600i the superior product, by far."