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Top tips for choosing and using your interactive whiteboard.

"Learning is easier and more fun when you can get out of your seat and interact with lessons! "

- 4th grade student, Lewisburg Area School District

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Look inside to access over 30 free resources and lessons ideas.

Have the teachers in your district been begging for interactive whiteboards (IWBs)? They are a great start for interactivity in your class. But, the board is just a tool and what you do with it is important for student success. So we polled some teachers and came up with these simple starter lessons that will turn your teachers into whiteboard-savvy pros.

1. Go to SAS Curriculum (www.sascurriculumpathways.com) for tons of free interactive content for grades 8 and higher. This site has writing lessons, math tools, earth science labs, Spanish activities, and more.

2. Pull up a world map (www.teacherled.com/category/maps) and ask students to tap on a country or continent to learn its name. Drag maps around to show different parts of the world. Create maps with older students using Map Maker (www.teacherled.com/2008/06/01/map-maker)

3. Use an overlay map of the U.S. to play fill-in-the-blank. Students can drag the state name into the proper spot. Or, just visit Place the State (bensguide.gpo.gov/flash/states_puzzle_lines2.html) for an already created U.S. mapping game.

4. Open up any word processing software and create a bank of vocabulary words at the bottom of the board. Ask students to drag the words into the correct sentences.

5. With Microsoft Paint (or another paint program), students can create murals to accompany lessons.

6. Find a short video on YouTube and play it on your IWB. You can pause the video to highlight key points. Even better, you or your students can write notes on top of the video and highlight important parts for the lesson.

7. Visit thinkfinity.org and access free lessons. Teach current events with the videos on the home page and have students pause videos and write notes or use google maps to visit the sites.

8. Display student essays on the board. Have other students use the highlighter tool on your IWB and highlight the best parts of each essay.

9. Type text and create "word clouds" with Wordle (www.wordle.net). At www.wordle.net/create, students can paste a page from any book to study each word's frequency. The larger the word, the more it appears. Ask them to apply it to their own writing to see which words they are guilty of overusing.

10. Use a brainstorming tool (such as Habits from Creative App Labs; creativeapplabs.com/apps/habits) to write a fable. Ask students to choose setting and main characters and write new fables.

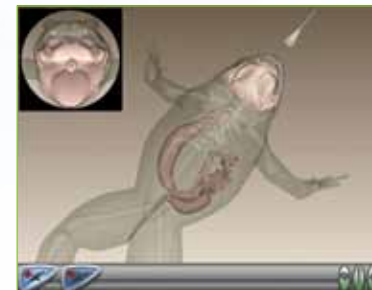Now that everyone's had some time to get used to their whiteboards, take it to the next level. These more advanced projects—which take advantage of today's web 2.0 tools combined with your interactive whiteboard—will excite your entire classroom and school.

1. Collaborate with another classroom. If you have a webcam, hook it up to the top of your whiteboard. Using Skype, your students can chat with their new friends and study anything. Here's an example of a collaborative project a middle-school class in New Jersey did with a classroom in Scotland: **www.carteretschools.org/ webpages/mfinucane/isle.cfm**

2. Dissect frogs without getting your hands dirty. V-Frog and V-Frog 2 from Tactus Technologies (**www. tactustech.com**) let you explore a frog without hurting one. Pause the dissection and annotate with notes so students understand what is happening.

3. Go on a webquest. Check out this one on World War II (**www.carteretschools.org/webpages/mfinucane/ resources.cfm?subpage=263135**) and then create your own for your students.Ask students to create webquests and provide digital tools including video,

4. Play Jeopardy to review lessons and prepare for exams. Create your own templates or borrow from other teachers at Jeopardy Labs (**www.jeopardylabs.com**).

5. Pull up Google Earth (**earth.google.com**) and explore geography around the world. Zoom in on areas relevant to your lesson.

6. Take an online field trip. Assign a different museum (or set of museums) to small groups of students. Have them explore their sites and then create presentations for the rest of the class. For American history, the Memorial Hall Museum Online (**www.memorialhall. mass.edu/home.html**) is a terrific place to start.

7. At Xtranormal (**www.xtranormal.com**), your students can create their own movies. If that's a bit much, stop by animoto (**animoto.com**) and turn your photos and video clips into videos. Book reports will never be the same.

8. TimeToast (**www.timetoast.com**): interactive timeline. Create timelines and share them online. Build a graphic organizer for an event and students will learn from the visual depiction on the IWB.

9. Take posters up 10 notches with Glogster EDU (**edu.glogster.com**). This visual-blogging platform lets you create glogs, or online multimedia posters, that contain text, photos, videos, graphics, sounds, data attachments, and animations perfect for whole group instruction.

10. Toss PowerPoint goodbye and say hello to Prezi (**prezi.com**). Teachers and students can use this site to drive information and make presentations come to life with animation with your IWB.

"In addition to the lifetime warranty— the fact that our ēno board can be a marker board or an interactive board — is pretty exciting from the budgeting standpoint of schools because we don't have an infinite amount of money. To have a universal product that provides both benefits is something positive."

—*Gretchen Reist, Ypsilanti Public School Technology Director.*

GO BEYOND THE BOARD

Maximize return on instruction with the right interactive whiteboard for your classroom.

Interactive whiteboards are a catalyst to bring learning to life and engage, inspire and motivate students. Choosing the right interactive whiteboard for your school or classroom is an important decision when faced with the challenge of positively affecting students and empowering teachers. Oh, and managing that small thing called a school budget is also a factor when selecting the right technology.

Top 5 tips to ensure you choose the right interactive whiteboard.

1. Choose a board that's universal and simple.
Look for a universal whiteboard – one that can be used as an interactive board, dry erase marker board and one with multiple configuration options to meet each classroom's needs. Regardless of training, experience or subject area, all teachers can operate universal interactive whiteboards from the first day of implementation. Adjustability to accommodate students of any height, projector styles and quick install options are also key features to investigate.

2. Ensure your board is open to software and architecture. When choosing an interactive whiteboard, look for one that is open and works with any software. The sky – and your creativity – are the only limits because you can continue to use and teach with software applications you know and love.
Choosing an interactive whiteboard that is open to any software capitalizes on the investments in digital resources, applications and other tools the district has already implemented, without requiring teachers to learn a new software to use the interactive whiteboard.

3. Facilitate multi-user collaboration without additional fees. Jump-start lessons, collaboration and problem solving by choosing an interactive whiteboard that allows three users to simultaneously interact with the board. Quite a few interactive whiteboard companies provide multi-user collaboration, but beware of upgrade charges or additional software required.

4. Maximize budgets with a warranty that lasts as long as the school building. Customer-centric warranties are unconditional and long lasting. Interactive whiteboards are made for classroom environments where students are not the most gentle of users. Typical interactive whiteboard warranties are 3-5 years, but look for a board with a lifetime warranty and you can use future budgets for other things like professional development.

5. Ensure sustainability with limited power requirements and responsible manufacturing. Minimize your classroom's carbon footprint and create a safer, less cluttered learning environment by choosing an interactive whiteboard that does not require power. Ensure your interactive whiteboard is made in the United States and is made with environmentally certified, recyclable materials so you can teach students the lessons our future depends on – responsibility and sustainability.

Following the 5 tips above helps ensure that your interactive whiteboard will be durable, flexible and the right choice for your instructional needs.

COOL FREE RESOURCES: GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR IWB

HAVE FUN!

READING & LITERACY

ABCya! Fourth Grade: Addition, subtraction, counting Money, and more. www.abcya.com/fourth_grade_computers.htm

Magnetic Poetry: write poems. kids.magpogames.com/playonline.cfm

MUSIC

ArtsAlive.ca: Compose music. Click and drag musical notes to make masterpieces. www.artsalive.ca/en/mus/activitiesgames/games/popComposeMusic.html

GAMES

PBS:Literacy made fun. Reinforce those skills. pbskids.org/games

Reading at pppst.com: Everything from rhyming words to story maps and folk tales. http://reading.pppst.com/

ReadWriteThink: Comic Creator: create your own comic.www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/index.html

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERY SUBJECT

CybraryMan: More than 20,000 links for all grade levels and subjects. www.cybraryman.com

Education World: Lesson planning and more. www.educationworld.com

Harrisville Elementary School's Interactive Sites for Whiteboards: Math and language arts activities for elementary and middle school students.

www.harrisvilleelem.com/Whiteboard%20Sites.htm

Teacher LED: interactive whiteboard resources for various subjects. www.teacherled.com/all-interactive-whiteboard-resources

Teacher Toolbox: interactive math and reading resources for K-5th grade. www.learningtoday.com/corporate/teacher-resources.asp

Topmarks: Organized by subjected, age group, and category, these resources include math, science, history, art, music, and more. www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx

MATH

A Maths Dictionary for Kids: Explains more than 600 common math

Terms: www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com

Fractions – A Booster Activity: make fractions on pizzas. www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/maths/fractions/index.htm

Financial Football: Teach financial skills and concepts with this interactive game about money management.

www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games/trainingcamp

MisterTeacher.com: Virtual Math Manipulatives: Math, math, and more more in the form of manipulatives. www.misterteacher.com/whiteboard/virtual_manipulatives.html

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (NLVM): Award-winning, web-based, virtual manipulatives and tutorials for all levels of math. nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html

WisWeb: Math applets for 12-18 year-old students

www.fi.uu.nl/wisweb/en/

LEARNING GAMES & USEFUL TOOLS

CuePrompter.com – The Online Teleprompter: Help out when students are learning to read with this virtual teleprompter. www.cueprompter.com

Gamequarium: Who says learning can't be fun? www.gamequarium.com/index.htm

HighlightsKids.com: The magazine we loved as children goes online. www.highlightskids.com

smallblueprinter: Build-your-own house plan and take a 3D walkthrough.

www.smallblueprinter.com/sbp.html

U.S. Map Test: Interactive map game.

www.pibmug.com/files/map_test.swf