

Katie Morrow – Omaha, USA

Katie Morrow teaches in the O'Neill Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska where she has taught at both the elementary and high school levels although she currently works as a technology integration specialist for the district. Highly involved in the Nebraska Educational Technology Association, she is an educator clearly passionate about the use of technology for learning, and in particular the use of SMART Board technology. Katie has received a number of recognitions for teaching excellence, including ISTE's National runner-up for Outstanding Teacher of the Year 2005 and Technology and Learning's Leader of the Year 2005. She is both a Smart Exemplary Educator and Apple Distinguished Educator, and her work with IWBs had been featured on the SMART Board Lesson Podcast and the Smart Technologies Best Practices Case Study program.

Katie offers the following snapshot into her use of IWB technology...

Eagle Eye News - By far one of the most engaging experiences for the students in my fifth grade classroom was creating our school news program entitled "Eagle Eye News." Each month students performed rotating jobs on the news team including audio engineer, technical director, managing editor, camera crew, field reporter, and anchor person, just to name a few. Each episode was entirely student produced - from writing the stories, through to filming and editing - and we utilized the SMART Board in every step of the process. Outlined below are a few of the ways our interactive whiteboard enhanced this rich language arts experience for my students and the wide audience with whom we shared our productions.

Prewriting: large group brainstorming and news story assignments

Concept mapping (SMART Ideas or Inspiration) to plan each episode's "flow"

Editing and revising: Peer editing and proofreading of word processed stories

Teleprompter: students scroll through the stories complete with color-coded highlighters on the SMARTBoard during filming to make anchor people's eyes appear as if they are looking right into the camera

Post-production: large group editing in iMovie

Group Critique: viewing each episode on the SMARTBoard in order to constructively critique it

SMARTcasts - Students producing content with SMART Recorder

In order for the SMARTBoard interactive whiteboard to be truly transformational in the educational process, it almost needs to become more transparent or invisible. By this I mean that instead of focusing on the flashiness and “magic” of the IWB, we instead need to focus on the teaching and learning and use the technology as a vehicle, not a destination.

Sending our students into the 21st century as primarily passive receivers of information will not give them the skills needed to compete in an ever changing global society. Students of today thrive on being able to create, contribute, and collaborate with the world around them. How, then do we structure our classroom learning to encourage higher-level thinking skills and greater engagement in self-directed learning? Using the SMARTBoard for students to produce content, rather than just consume it, is a great first step.

The Recorder is a free tool included with SMARTBoard software. Students can create their lesson on any educational topic in SMART Notebook or any software application. After scripts are written and practicing takes place, students start the recorder tool while narrating

the process and every action on the screen is recorded into the movie file. This simple way of turning our students into teachers can take on multiple formats, including all subject areas and even digital storytelling pieces of student interest. Extensions include scoring the movie with background music and posting to a web server to share with the world.

I have used the idea of SMARTcasts with my students as they created creative writing stories, math lessons for younger learners, and technology tutorials for their peers. Example SMARTcasts created by students can be viewed by following the links on my website.

Finally, I would love to share my resources involving SMARTBoard interactive whiteboards at: <http://smartteach.wetpaint.com>. Feel free to join the community, add to the discussion, or just download lessons and ideas to use in your own classroom.

Katie hosts her own website where she blogs, podcasts and shares her resources and ideas. You can find her online at <http://www.mrsmorrow.com>

Tom Barrett – Midlands, England

Tom Barrett is a Year 5 Teacher, ICT Subject Leader and Assistant Headteacher at Priestsic Primary and Nursery School in Nottingham, UK. His school has had SMART Boards in every class since December 2003 - Nursery to Year 6 - and their use is an embedded part of the way the school works. Tom is well known for his work with IWBs as well as his use of collaborative technologies such as GoogleDocs and immersive multimedia tools like Google Earth. In addition to his outstanding work with IWBs, Tom recently worked closely with Philips to explore the possibilities of interactive