

ST FRANCIS DE SALES EMBRACES SMARTBOARD TECHNOLOGY

The SmartBoard is an interactive white board that allows the teacher to control computer applications, write notes, display charts and images, search the Internet, and play videos with the touch of a finger. The SmartBoard expands the capacity to engage students with different learning styles. Visual learners easily see colorful, movable images and diagrams, even from the back of the classroom. With a touch of a finger, kinesthetic learners interact and explore by moving letters, numbers, words and pictures. Auditory learners are surrounded in a complete multimedia experience using SMART Audio. The Senteo interactive response system aids the teachers in evaluating the progress of students. The system includes handheld wireless remotes and a receiver that allows the teacher to create tests, give the tests, and evaluate the results instantaneously. Currently, St. Francis de Sales School is using six SmartBoards among several grade levels.

Sue Licalzi, third grade teacher, has successfully integrated the SmartBoard with the third grade math textbook. The Smart Board gives her the versatility of zooming in on one particular part of the lesson. The students can focus on that problem as opposed to the whole page if they were looking at a textbook. The students just love it, and really enjoy actually working problems on the SmartBoard.

Mr. Johnson, our middle school social studies teacher, regularly gives pop quizzes using his SmartBoard and the Senteo system. In a matter of minutes, he can evaluate what the students are learning from the day's lessons. Whereas in the past, grading quizzes may have taken days, the instantaneous results from the Senteo system enables Mr. Johnson to adjust the material being presented and the manner of the presentation. Mr. Johnson often uses the SmartBoard during his lectures to demonstrate different topics. At a touch of a finger, maps, charts, and diagrams can be displayed.

Ms. Carlisle's eighth grade English classes are regularly seen playing Wheel of Fortune and Trivia Quest, as well as other software games. While these games may appear to be just "for fun", the software programs help reinforces spelling, grammar, and other topics that were discussed during class. In addition, the students learn teamwork when playing against the others.

Many other teachers are eager to embrace SmartBoard technology. If you would like to make a donation to help with the purchase of additional SmartBoards, please contact Mary Overbeck at overbeckm@sfdsschool.org or at 713-774-4447.

