

Our Schools and Technology: SmartBoards

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Implementing technology in the classroom has been part of a major focus in the Lake Havasu Unified School District. One way to accomplish this is by effectively using a SmartBoard (an interactive whiteboard).

The district has 35 SmartBoards dispersed throughout the schools at all grade levels (excluding kindergarten). A SmartBoard is an interactive touch-sensitive screen connected through cables to a computer and a projector to show the computer image. The screen is 77 inches measured diagonally. After orienting the board with the projector, your finger magically turns into the mouse. The board also contains electronic drawing markers that the computer recognizes when you pick up a pen from the tray.



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SMART Technologies provides Notebook Software for SmartBoard owners and users to download and use. The Notebook Software contains many tools to enhance instruction such as shapes, backgrounds, images, screen shades and Flash interactive materials. Teachers can insert new blank slides in the software to continue their lesson. Their website provides thousands of pre-made Notebook lessons that teachers can download and use in their classroom or modify to fit their lesson's objective. The SmartVideo Player is another great feature. It has the capabilities of pausing a movie by simply picking up an electronic pen and being able to write notes on the video to enforce a particular topic. The writing can be erased and the movie can continue to

play. There also is a Smart Recorder. This allows a teacher to record their Notebook lesson sequentially and save it to use at a later time.

Training is a must for SmartBoards to be used as an engaging tool for student learning. Teachers with SmartBoards in their classroom are required and accountable for the following:

- (1) Attend a 2-hour SmartBoard 1 class.
- (2) Attend a 2-hour SmartBoard 2 class.
- (3) Complete a Pre-SmartBoard Survey stating their 2007-2008 implementation goals using the SmartBoard.
- (4) Complete a Post-SmartBoard Survey providing the approximate amount of time each day per week using the SmartBoard.
- (5) Share at least 3 Notebook lessons that they created with other teachers in the district. The teacher's participation in these activities demonstrates the teacher's commitment to making the SmartBoard a successful tool in the classroom.

Teachers have created fantastic Notebook files that include: Interactive Matching, Note Reveals, Question Flippers, Embedded Video, and Captured Pictures from the Internet. Congratulations to the teachers who have taken the extra time to learn and implement SmartBoard technology in their classrooms.