

**Title of Session:** Special Education Forum - Technology in the SPED Classroom/SmartBoards  
**Moderator:** Paul Bohac  
**Title of File:** 20051017sped  
**Date:** October 17, 2005

Room: Special Education Forum Group

**BJ:** Looks like a small but distinguished group tonight.

**BJ:** Guess we better get started with our sped discussion on SMARTBoards

**BJ:** Randy, you teach special ed?

**BridgetM** joined the room.

**PaulDB:** Thanks!!

**PaulDB:** Hello Bridget

**BJ:** Hi, Bridget. Glad you could join us

**BridgetM:** Me too. Hi all

**BJ:** let's start with introductions, please. Tell us where you are located and what brings you to the discussion.

**BridgetM:** Long Island, NY special ed k-2 -pull out this year

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in a correctional facility in Pennsylvania

**PaulDB:** Okay, I am a retired Correctional Educator from Florida.

**BJ** wonders if Randy is multitasking?

**RandyZ:** Pennsylvania...around Allentown. I am an instructional technology specialist and am focusing a part of my work on a group of special education teachers ... so looking for ideas.

**BJ:** Paul had managed to contact a person from the SMARTBoard organization and invited them to join the discussion...

**BridgetM:** cool tech

**BJ:** but I think he was afraid of the TI technology

**BridgetM:** hee hee

**BJ:** so we're going to do our own presentation...I have several links, including one sent by Alex Rettie from SmartTech

**PaulDB:** Yes, he indicated he would help us find someone who could be with us this evening but late last week he sent an email indicating there was no one who could assist us tonight.

**RandyZ:** wow...that is too bad.

**BridgetM:** I used a smart board as grad student for presentations but not w/ students

**BJ:** . o O ( Alex did get a membership to TI, btw, so perhaps there's hope )

**BJ:** anyway, I have several URLs to share...

**RandyZ:** excellent

**BJ:** you know to hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard if you're on a pc when you click on the url

**BridgetM:** ready to learn

**BJ:** this will open a new window for you...take a few minutes to browse the site and then come back and comment

**BJ:** Here's Alex's site <http://education.smarttech.com/ste/en-us/>

**BJ:** you'll notice that there is a short demo on using the smarttech board with at-risk kids

**SusanR:** Thanks

**BJ:** there are also quite a few lesson plans on the site

**BJ:** everyone back yet?

**PaulDB:** I am

**BJ:** looks around the room.

**BridgetM:** just back

**SusanR:** I am back

**RandyZ:** me too

**BridgetM:** we all just missed grant deadline - Sept 30

**BJ:** next url is for tutorials...there are several, including one for the smartboard

**BJ:** bummer...gives you a year to prepare for the next one, Bridget!

**BJ:** <http://www.smarttech.com/trainingcenter/tutorials.asp>

**RandyZ:** what experienced do you all have with these interactive whiteboards?

**BJ:** I've seen them demoed, but never used one myself

**BridgetM:** I used one to do a presentation in grad school

**PaulDB:** I have none Randy, in fact just learned about them last month in this forum.

**SusanR:** . o O ( seen them at conferences )

**BridgetM:** a few High school teachers in my cohort got to use them with their students

**PaulDB:** Last month BJ identified a site that described a study conducted regarding the use of the Smartboard. I downloaded the report but have not finished reading it yet.

**BridgetM:** very reinforcing for remedial math students

**RandyZ:** I think the positive effects are obvious for large group instruction, but how do you think you could use this technology in a constructivist manner?

**SusanR:** I have a few Smartboard resources in the K to 3 Resource Room

**BJ:** students could use the smartboard to present a report

**BJ:** or demonstrate a math concept

**BridgetM:** brainstorming w/ inspiration

**BJ** loves Inspiration

**RandyZ:** ok...and I guess the ability to save and easily alter work is an advantage.

**BridgetM:** HS teachers said students were more willing to take risks

**BJ** nods to Bridget.

**BJ:** Here's a site with a ton of lessons

**PamelaK** joined the room.

**BJ:** <http://www.eduscapes.com/sessions/smartboard/>

**BJ:** good job, Pamela

**BJ:** welcome to the Special Ed discussion

**PamelaK:** Thanks

**BJ:** we're discussing the SmartBoard and looking at <http://www.eduscapes.com/sessions/smartboard/>

**BJ** . o O ( hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard as you click on the link )

**BJ:** this is a pretty comprehensive site with a a lot of ideas...including one on Inspiration

**PaulDB:** It will take a while to review all that it has to offer!!

**BJ** nods

**SusanR** . o O ( students could demo a concept learned )

**PaulDB:** I like that Susan!!

**PaulDB:** Another opportunity to use technology!!

**MargaretTK** joined the room.

**BJ** waves to Margaret. Welcome

**PaulDB:** Hello Margaret

**MargaretTK:** Howdy

**SusanR** . o O ( a chalkboard or whiteboard replacement )

**PaulDB:** We are looking at some web sites that BJ found to provide more information on the Smartboard technology we discussed last month.

**MargaretTK:** Kurzweil 3000 is going to have another webinar on

**RandyZ:** I think an important detail to using technology like this is having the students using it as much as possible. Not that there is anything wrong with using it as a large group presentation device, but I think it could easily become a teacher focused piece of hardware. What do you think?

**PaulDB:** BJ has been very busy this past month!!

**BJ:** I agree with you, Randy

**RandyZ:** Especially if the teacher is conditioned to teach in the 'stand and deliver' mode.

**BJ:** it does appear that the kids really enjoy using the smartboard technology

**PaulDB:** Maybe, but it also seems to offer much greater opportunity for student input.

**RandyZ:** But on the positive side, I think that it appeals to different learning styles, and can be engaging in many ways.

**PaulDB:** Just the "newness" would have some immediate positive effects.

**BridgetM:** the after school remedial math class had kids from other classes coming - Smart Board & the teacher - were the lures

**RandyZ:** lol

**BJ:** I have one more link for the smartboard and then one on assistive technology

**BJ:** <http://www.thecoo.edu/~apeter/smartboard.htm>

**SusanR:** put it in the hands of students and ask them to come up with innovative classroom uses

**MargaretTK:** A SmartBoard is a way enabling student interaction into whole class instruction.

**PaulDB:** Kids who do not do well in the traditional class setting may find it easier to struggle more openly in a technology-oriented classroom because they can hide their lack of knowledge behind their lack of familiarity with the technology.

**BJ:** good idea, Sue...the kids have no preconceived ideas about what doesn't work

**BJ:** to a point, Paul...

**BJ:** even the limited kids can experience success that they would not normally be able to achieve in a paper and pencil world

**PaulDB:** Learning to manipulate the technology contributes to development of understanding of the content/concept.

**SusanR:** start with a brainstorming session using Smart Ideas

**PaulDB:** I like that idea Susan.

**KristinaLC** joined the room.

**BJ:** Hi, Kristina. Welcome

**KristinaLC:** hello

**BJ:** we're discussing using technology in the special ed classroom

**KristinaLC:** wonderful

**BJ:** o O ( smartboards in particular tonight )

**KristinaLC:** I can't wait to learn how to use them

**KristinaLC:** our school just got one this year

**BJ:** I have one last url to share...I came across these tools while searching for smartboard information....do you think they can be used with the smartboard?

**BJ:** [http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/KSD/IT/TSC/prof\\_dev/tutorials.html#assistive](http://www.kent.k12.wa.us/KSD/IT/TSC/prof_dev/tutorials.html#assistive)

**BridgetM:** ooo = lucky puppies!!

**SusanR:** How is it being used, Kristina?

**KristinaLC:** I have only seen kindergarten using it--it is their week. I haven't had the chance to play around with it.

**SusanR:** so a week per classroom

**KristinaLC:** per grade level--one day per class--we average 5 classes per grade level

**BJ:** did the staff receive training on how to use it, Kristina?

**SusanR:** I gather lots of experimentation/exploration in the first year.

**PaulDB:** If they were trained, who provided the training?

**KristinaLC:** our new tech. person is giving training to each grade level--she calls it tech. Tuesdays

**BridgetM:** better to share in the classrooms than corral in the computer lab - IMHO

**KristinaLC:** her title is ITRC I believe

**RandyZ:** yes..agree.

**BridgetM:** no offence to lab teachers

**BJ** smiles. I'm sure none was taken, Bridget

**MargaretTK:** Don't mean to keep leaving you all, and but I have a crappy WiFi connection.

**BJ:** putting the smartboard in the classroom encourages more student participation

**SusanR:** However, I have seen new tech gathering dust in the back of a classroom as well

**BridgetM:** well, yes, that is true

**SusanR:** but the smartboard is too large to ignore

**PaulDB:** That is why the training is so critical. Teachers don't like to appear less than competent.

**BJ:** that applies to all tech, Paul!

**MargaretTK:** Is there a good price list for SmartBoards? We have one that drowned in Hurricane Rita.

**BJ:** oh, dear...contact the company, Margaret

**BridgetM:** you're right Susan

**BJ:** and see if they're willing to give you a better or reduced price

**BridgetM:** Best Buy has grants now esp for schools impacted by hurricanes

**PaulDB:** The first site BJ listed should provide access to a price list, just be aware that the cost will be a little high because of the training that the company will provide.

**BridgetM:** even schools that have new enrollees

**MargaretTK:** Hopefully we'll get something from FEMA.

**BJ:** here's the company url, Margaret <http://education.smarttech.com/ste/en-us/>

**BJ:** contact Alex Rettie

**BJ:** tell him you learned about his company from Tapped In

**MargaretTK:** I guess this is the wrong group for this, but the school that lost the SmartBoard is now bunked at my home base school.

**PaulDB:** The phone number for the company is 1-888-427-6278, ext 3212

**BJ:** oh, wow...I hope you've joined the Hurricane Central group, Margaret

**BJ:** here's Alex's email [AlexRettie@smarttech.com](mailto:AlexRettie@smarttech.com)

**MargaretTK:** Oh yes, I'm on Hurricane Central. By the way, Wilma is heading our way. Target landfall: Vermillion Bay

**PaulDB:** The phone number extension will take you directly to Alex.

**BJ** grins...everyone please feel free to call Alex and say hi from Paul and **BJ**

**MargaretTK:** That's great--the gifted supervisor is coming tomorrow.

**BJ** tries not to think about Wilma

**BJ:** well, boys and girls...our hour is about up...

**BJ:** any suggestions for next month's tech in the SPED classroom?

**MargaretTK:** Sorry I was late--always great to get together!

**PamelaK:** Thanks for the sites. I want to try them tomorrow when I have more time to look through them.

**BridgetM:** portfolios?

**BJ:** thanks, everyone, for joining us

**BJ:** digital portfolios?

**PaulDB:** BJ, we did not talk about assistive devices so maybe we will explore that a little bit?

**BJ:** ok...that sounds good, Paul.

**BridgetM:** that's a very good idea

**BridgetM:** thanks, Paul

**BridgetM:** night all

**BJ:** everyone see if you can find information on some kind of assistive device

**PaulDB:** Portfolios would also be very good, especially in light of NCLB!

**SusanR:** Thanks all!

**PamelaK:** Thanks!

**MargaretTK:** BTW--Jeff turned me on to KinderSite. Fantastic for our lower ability students of all ages. Wish they'd change the name.

**RandyZ:** thank you for the resources.

**BJ:** perhaps we can discuss kindersite next month too, Margaret...you can tell us how you use it

**BJ** waves goodnight

**PaulDB:** It has been very informative and I have enjoyed being a part of the discussion.

**PaulDB:** I am hoping that as we spend some time talking about the technology that we can begin to see some development of a shared vision of how to better use the technology for the benefit of the special education population and ultimately it will work its way into the correctional education setting.

**PaulDB:** As significant as technology is to today's world, special education kids and the incarcerated are in desperate need for instruction so that they can become productive members of society.