

INTERWRITE Lessons

InterWrite SchoolPads Take Technology to a New Level

Anastasia Truman, Riverwood Elementary School, Baltimore, MD

Children grow up with calculators, computers, handheld devices and electronic whiteboards. Now, GTCO CalComp has taken classroom technology to a new level with their InterWrite SchoolPad. This wireless pad gives teachers the ability to use an electronic pen like a mouse to annotate and highlight any computer image. It also enables teachers to interact with a projected image at the front of the room while standing anywhere in the classroom.

Interactive Introduction

As an elementary school teacher, Anastasia Truman tries to find exciting ways to help students learn. She became interested in electronic whiteboards after seeing them at a conference. "I was curious to see how I could use them in the classroom, so I invited GTCO CalComp to Riverwood Elementary for a product demonstration." The representative arrived with several "technology toys," and showed the many different ways the SchoolPads could engage students in learning. The SchoolPad seemed to be the key to active student learning in the classroom. Ms. Truman's school purchased five SchoolPads and she has been pleased with the technological advantages they have offered her students and other faculty members over the last year.

Interwrite In Action

Ms. Truman uses the InterWrite SchoolPads, which comes with InterWrite software, in several different curricular areas. Students use the SchoolPads in math class to answer questions, which can be posted on the projection screen in the front of the classroom.

Students also have the capability to post new questions and challenge each other using the pads to race in math drills. In addition, the SchoolPad is helpful for math class when teaching fractions. Fractions can easily be drawn and represented with concrete models on the screen to help students understand the lesson and start applying the knowledge on their own.

The InterWrite SchoolPad is a great tool in language arts as well. Each week, Ms. Truman posts the spelling list on the board in the front of the classroom using the handheld, wireless SchoolPad. While teaching handwriting, she models each cursive letter on the board and has the students practice writing with the SchoolPad's electronic pen. "This is a great way to utilize students' handwriting skills as they move from tracing to writing letters," says Truman.

Students also use the SchoolPad to post questions during reading time. This gives each child a chance to answer different questions. In addition, another teacher uses the SchoolPad and InterWrite Software to help students study for an upcoming science test by printing the students' study notes for them to use as a study guide.

"Excited About Learning"

According to Truman, "Interwrite SchoolPads have made students excited about learning. Students are using their skills in new ways, making learning more authentic and fun. The Interwrite SchoolPads have become an essential part of our classrooms."

