



Friday, January 14, 2005 1:25:10 PM

\*FacStaff Area (private)

From: Stan Sterenberg-fs

Subject: SmartBoard thoughts

To: FacStaff (ML)

Cc:

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Dear Colleagues,

Last night I spent an hour and a half explaining and demonstrating the highlights of using the SmartBoard to prospective parents of new students. Upon reflection, I realize that my presentation evolved into a kind of advertising flyer for the SmartBoard. I thought it might be helpful to make notes of these thoughts before they leave my brain (things leave at an increasingly and disturbingly rapid rate these days). I offer this to everyone as simply a source of information about SmartBoard use. (If it serves as an inspiration to dip your toes into the water, so much the better. My pool is almost always open, and is generally well-heated.)

Regards to all,  
Stan (a.k.a. Mr. SmartBoard)

To wit:

- 1) SmartBoard is a **fabulous combination** of two useful methodologies:
  - (a) It offers the possibility of presenting **static** (prefabricated) information, much in the manner of Inspiration and PowerPoint.
  - (b) It also offers the exciting possibility of **dynamic** (live, spontaneous) classroom notes and lessons
- 2) You have at your fingertips an **unlimited** amount of "blackboard" space -- you need **never** erase anything (if you choose not to). You have access to going back and forth among any of the "boards" you have created.
- 3) **Everything is saved forever** (if you so choose). I have devised a simple

filing system (just ask Karen Katz) so that I can locate any lesson I've given this year in less than a minute. (As an obsessive-compulsive SmartBoarder, that includes virtually every lesson I have taught this year -- since I learned how to use it in late September) -- has been done using it. I now fear what would happen if they took it away from me.)

4) **Color is back in my life.** Colored chalk on conventional blackboards is problematic, at best. Once you erase it, the blackboard becomes much harder to use -- a real deterrent. SmartBoard provides four bold colors, black, blue, red, and green, (others are possible, but typically not needed), and a host of colors as potential "backgrounds." Now that I use color regularly, I see how clearly it improves the quality of a lesson, especially when you want to highlight and/or contrast different aspects of your topic.

5) **The kids love it,** especially if you let them go up and use it (which I have begun to do grudgingly, since it was my toy first).

**Negatives, so far:** (When I first told Steve B. about these, he told me I was being "greedy," which I suppose I am. But improvements in these, especially the first, would be a nice enhancement.)

1) At this point, you can only open one lesson at a time. I don't know if they are working on this.

2) Opening any one lesson takes about 30 seconds, closing one only about 10. This isn't much, but it can be annoying if you are trying to "bounce" around in your planning.