

# Primarily Interactive

## Whitewater High School, Georgia

### A Case Study

Schools everywhere- elementary to high- as well as colleges are utilizing computers in their classrooms to teach daily lessons and conduct research via the Internet. Now some schools are taking the use of technology one step further with wireless devices that are becoming the primary teaching tool in every classroom for every subject.

#### Sought & Bought

Principal Greg Stillions had a vision in 2002 to establish a new wave of teaching in Fayetteville, Georgia. Stillions recognized the growing importance of technology in the classroom and wanted to implement a program that would guide his students through the duration of their high school careers. His goal was to establish a creative and interactive environment in the building that would mark the new home of the Whitewater Wildcats.

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Stillions began to investigate the Interwrite Pad, a Bluetooth wireless teaching device that turns any flat surface into an interactive one. Stillions was initially introduced to the Interwrite Pad at a local elementary school. After seeing the device in action, he was convinced the Interwrite Pad was the technology that would turn everyday academic lessons into dynamic and exciting learning experiences.

#### Implementation and Application

After the teachers at Whitewater received training, they were required by school administration to use the Interwrite Pad every day to teach all lessons. The pad was so easy to use that the teachers learned how to utilize the technology very quickly. Its versatility allowed them to write notes, highlight key points, insert images & graphics or simply control any software application on their computer. It also allowed them to make hard copies of the lessons and either send them home with their students or send them via email.

“With the Interwrite Pad, teachers can use it for almost anything,” said Stillions. “You can play educational games, load graphs, put up a picture of the graphing calculator and demonstrate how to use it and even load geographical maps.”

Whitewater was outfitted with 80 InterWrite Pads and they were placed throughout the entire school, including its classrooms, media center, auditorium and special needs areas. Stillions notes, “The children who have a hard time listening and taking notes at the same time really benefit from the Interwrite Pad. It allows for modifications for those with special needs.”

#### More Features

The Interwrite Pad also let the instructors move around the room and direct their attention to those who were having difficulty without hindering the other students from proceeding with the lesson at the front of the room. According to Stillions, “The beauty of this technology is that it doesn’t attach the teacher to the board. Each student gets the attention he or she deserves.”

Another benefit the Interwrite Pad offered was spontaneity and student encouragement to be creative. Interactive graphics grabbed the attention of the students while access to the Internet allowed the instructor to be flexible and feed off the students' questions and interests. "If a teacher is in the middle of a lesson and a student asks a question that the teacher was not originally prepared for, the teacher can look it up instantly on the Internet and attain pictures and information that describes the answer to the student's question," Stallions said. "Teachers no longer have to say, 'Let me write that down, look it up after school and make a few transparencies by the end of the week so we can talk about it.' There are no more delays."

### Student Response and Achievement

One of the best benefits of the Interwrite Pad was that students at Whitewater had higher or equal scores to those students who were learning in a more traditional classroom. Stillions is planning to order a few sets of the handheld InterWrite PRS student response systems-sometimes referred to as "clickers"- to help further engage students and increase class participation. These devices allow teachers to receive immediate student feedback and know instantly what students do or do not comprehend. Stallion believes Interwrite PRS, "is going to be incredible. There will be no more wasted time. The teacher [won't] have to wait until a midterm or a final to understand if they need to spend more time on a certain subject. There is immediate feedback for both the teacher and the student, which will result in a higher understanding and higher test scores."



Whitewater High School has been in existence for four years now and enrolled only freshman students for the first year. In June 2006, the first class of seniors not only graduated from Whitewater, but also accomplished Stillions' original goal: They were the first graduating class to utilize the new wave of technology throughout high school.

#### **About Interwrite Learning:**

Interwrite Learning™ is a leading provider of interactive learning solutions. Our Interwrite Board is an extremely durable interactive whiteboard that includes thousands of images and resources to create dynamic and exciting lessons. The wireless Interwrite Pad allows you to teach from anywhere in the classroom creating an interactive whiteboard on any flat surface. Interwrite PRS is a powerful student response system that combines interaction and assessment to enhance classroom productivity. It allows teachers- from elementary schools to universities- to accurately and instantly assess student comprehension and quickly grade quizzes and exams. We are changing how the world learns with our Interactive Classroom solutions.

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