

Interwrite® Pad Summit Palm Springs Unified School District, California A Success Story

The Palms Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) was searching for a method that allowed their teachers to gain proximity to their students in the classroom, while providing visual cues to enhance



learning. Lee Grafton, instructional technology specialist for PSUSD, decided that the Interwrite Pad was the only solution that could fulfill the district's needs.

Grafton discovered the Interwrite Pad at a math conference and was immediately impressed with its ability to visually prompt students and improve test scores, attention rates, retention, engagement, amount of time spent per task and the amount of interaction between students and teachers.

Stepping Up

With funding from Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) competitive grants, the PSUSD's middle schools implemented the SUMMIT (Step Up to Math Mastery Integrating Technology) program. The SUMMIT program was designed to improve student achievement of California's sixth to eighth grade math content standards and support the delivery of the district's state-adopted math curriculum through the use of 21st century technology tools.

To meet the goals of the SUMMIT program, Grafton implemented the Interwrite Pads throughout the entire district's middle schools. It was chosen because it allowed Palm Springs' teachers to work closely and interact with their students, while stimulating visual learning and creative thinking.

Coupled with a computer and an LCD projector, the Interwrite Pad was integrated into the instructional day as an integral learning tool. The teachers moved about the classroom and focused student attention on the academic content with the use of electronic highlighters, drawing tools, graphics and animations.

Teaching the Teachers

PSUSD also took part in faculty development that consisted of coaching and mentoring to develop teacher expertise, assessment of instructional activities related to student achievement, access to differentiated professional development opportunities and access to high quality curricular resources.

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“The learning curve was so fast for getting acquainted with the Interwrite Pads. The trainers got our teachers up and running with the technology, and shortly after the faculty started teaching themselves and eventually each other,” said Grafton. “It was a great collaborative effort. To see teachers embrace technology like that is really amazing.”

The teachers caught on so quickly that the benefits of the Interwrite Pad were immediately noticed.

“Classroom observations and interviews revealed that the SUMMIT program was extremely successful,” said Grafton. “The program not only made a positive impact on the participating teachers and students, but also could serve as a professional development model for the district, as well as for other communities.”

Program Evaluation

A program evaluation with classroom observations and interviews was conducted by Dr. Amy Leh from California State University, San Bernardino. Leh found significant improvement in both classroom management and student engagement.

All of the teachers who used the Interwrite Pad during instruction felt it was important in enhancing instruction, particularly for classroom management and providing visual cues. Leh also noted that students exhibited a high degree of student engagement (86-92 percent) and were more motivated, engaged, focused, active, involved and excited during class when using the Interwrite Pads.

In short, Grafton sees the noticeable difference Interwrite® products have made in her district and believes that others have noticed the change as much as she has.

“We love it and cannot say enough good things about [eInstruction],” said Grafton. “People are coming from all over to see what our district is doing with Interwrite’s amazing interactive classroom technology.”

About eInstruction™

eInstruction pioneered the first student response system for the education market during the 1980s. Its Classroom Performance System (CPS) provides instructors and students with real-time feedback on comprehension during instruction. Today CPS remains the leading student response system in education, being used by millions of students in more than 60,000 K-12 classrooms and over 400,000 students in more than 1,300 colleges and universities. In 2006, eInstruction acquired FSCreations and integrated its ExamView® and Learning Series content into CPS; so instructors can seamlessly use publisher and proprietary question banks in lesson plans, quizzes and tests with eInstruction technology. The result is an integrated system for instruction and assessment with real-time feedback. In 2008, eInstruction joined forces with Interwrite Learning®, another premier global provider of interactive learning solutions to the primary, secondary and higher education markets.

