

## **ACTIVboards in the Classroom**

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Technology based education has changed dramatically for students and teachers in the past few years. Advancing from calculators and computers to ACTIVboards in classrooms, students are becoming more involved and highly motivated to do their personal best in their least favorite subjects. I have seen student grades improve as they strive to do better in a very short time.

An ACTIVboard is the latest form of technology for the classroom that I know of. It is used with a computer and a video projector at the front of the class. It is like a digital flipchart. It replaces the whiteboard with its many digital features. A cordless pen is used which writes on this board allowing the user to do numerous activities. No more marked up hands and fingers. The ACTIVboard has enhanced my teaching styles by providing a more visual and hands on approach to teaching.

One of these ACTIVboards was installed in my classroom three weeks ago which was right at the beginning of my Math unit where I introduced multiplication to grade 3. Having brought out the usual manipulatives and demonstrated the facts and their families, students knew they had to learn these dreaded times tables but weren't real convinced it was a priority. When the ACTIVboard was used to reinforce the already taught lessons in multiplication, students jumped at the chance to play the games provided. The life size board got students out of their desk and they were learning without realizing it. Students who hadn't quite grasped the concept of multiplication were eager to play the new games and see how well they faired. Students encouraged one another and collaborated with each other as they challenged their own scores. Learning multiplication is repetitive and requires memorization but by making it fun and interactive the students didn't realize they were engaged in learning. Using the internet's vast array of Math games, our Math class is never long enough, and after recess students are asking to have more Math time. The ACTIVboard is easy to use and students' attention is drawn to the bright colors and graphics that are projected onto the big board. Dragging and moving words, numbers, and pictures keep students active and motivated to learn the required curriculum. They are eager and enthusiastic to learn once dreary subjects.

The ACTIVexpressions are personal hand held indicators that students press to express their answers, ideas and opinions as a whole, by using words, phrases, symbols and numbers; instantly sharing with the entire class. This data is projected up onto the ACTIVboard and students see the results immediately. Put downs, humiliations and low-self esteem moments are minimal as answers can be anonymous to the students but not to the teacher.

Having all the students focused, motivated and involved gives me a satisfaction knowing I've done all I can to capture their interests and provide learning what will make them better citizens for this earth as well as the Heavenly Earth.

Is every child involved? Absolutely. Are all the children learning? Absolutely. Does this replace textbooks and worksheets? Absolutely not, but fewer worksheets are

necessary because student evaluation is happening while they're enjoying this interactive learning. Students can't wait to get to school and use the ACTIVboard.

I am very grateful to have this cutting edge technology in my classroom and am providing a positive learning environment for my students. I can't imagine teaching without the ACTIVboard anymore. It has also given me a new passion for teaching and very enjoyable to plan the next day's lessons.