

“Everything looks better on the big screen”

Brent Bol, Teacher, Crawford Adventist Academy, Willowdale, ON

Someone once said, “I am not afraid of the technology, but the lack of it.”

The 21st century has introduced a wide range of new technological inventions. There are so many things to choose from that it may be difficult to decipher what technology will best suit your needs. For classroom use, teachers can choose desk top computers, lap tops, video projectors, Smart Boards, and an array of software. Where do you start?

I’ve been teaching for a few years and I haven’t made the best use of technology for more than half of it. For several years, the only technology I used was the chalk board and the overhead projector. What a breath of fresh air the video projector was!

My late start with the video projector wasn’t for lack of interest. From the beginning of my teaching career I had wanted to use the video projector but the school where I worked had only one projector that was shared among the staff and the set up time took up valuable teaching time.

In my current school, I’m fortunate to have the video projector in my classroom at all times. This has been a true blessing. I started off using the video projector in small increments: quotes or Bible texts during worship and the day’s agenda. I’ve also shown relevant videos from You. I’ve found that this is a great way to start a class as it really grabs the student’s attention and helps them settle in quickly. Three minutes of video at the beginning of class--what a difference!

Another benefit I found in using the video projector as opposed to the chalk board was that I could go back and forward in my lesson. With a chalk board, once you fill it, you have to erase it and it’s gone. That doesn’t mean that the chalk board is obsolete; I still use it for further clarification.

Technology has also helped me to come up with lesson plans from ground zero. I felt I just didn’t have enough time in a day to prepare for all of my classes. I found many excellent resources on the internet that helped me prepare my lessons. After discovering how to scan documents and add them to power point, life got easier.

Teachers should be given time to become better acquainted with new technology and every school should invest in video projectors for each classroom. They are more affordable now than ever and greatly enhance one’s teaching experience. And after all, “everything looks better on the big screen.”