

Interactive Products Division Numonics Corporation **Case Studies**



Numonics Interactive Whiteboard Makes History Come Alive

Case Study by Susan Brooks-Young

Northfield Community School, located in Northfield, NJ, is actually two schools in one. The elementary school houses Kindergarten through fourth grade and the middle school serves grades five through eight. Students' academic performance is high, exceeding state averages on the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK). One key to this success is the support the school receives through an active PTO and the Northfield Education Foundation (NEF). These organizations provide funds for various programs and activities, including technology purchases.



Five years ago a neighboring school district implemented use of interactive whiteboards in its schools. Parents and teachers at Northfield Community School heard about this and wanted to institute a similar program, so they brought the idea to the NEF board. Foundation members researched this technology, and the NEF board decided to buy two Interactive Presentation Manager 1000 (IPM 1000) whiteboards, one for the elementary school and one for the middle school.

Manufactured by Numonics Corporation, the IPM 1000 features include: a multimedia pen with full mouse capabilities; user-definable Softkeys for launching programs, applications, websites, and presentation tools; virtual whiteboard software that automatically saves notes and illustrations to the computer; and, a specially formulated matte surface that enables projectors to produce a clear, sharp image with no distortion or hotspots. In addition, the IPM 1000 is known for its portability, durability, and a generous warranty which, with product registration, covers mechanical and electrical failure due to manufacturing defects for the life of the original purchaser in the USA and for five years internationally. Since the school's plan included moving the interactive

whiteboards from classroom to classroom to encourage use by many teachers and students, these qualities were big considerations in the selection process.

Amy Petitgout teaches social studies at Northfield Middle School. Her current assignment is 8th grade U.S. History. The start of Petitgout's teaching career coincided with the introduction of

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the interactive whiteboards five years ago. She observed another teacher using the IPM 1000 and knew immediately that this was a tool she wanted to use in her classroom. “I could see so many possibilities for me as a teacher and for my students.” Petitgout reports that using the IPM 1000 helps her do a more thorough job of planning and organizing lessons. “First, I use *PowerPoint* to create class notes. Then, I think about ways to incorporate elements that will liven up the lessons, which is easy to do because of the features of the interactive whiteboard.” For example, Petitgout may include brief video clips from unitedstreaming to illustrate a specific point, use *Inspiration* for a brainstorming session, or take her students on a virtual field trip. “But I don't stop there. Each year I review my lesson plan files and work on developing them further instead of starting over from scratch. This means the lessons become richer over time.” As an added bonus, Petitgout posts the class notes on her classroom eBoard page located on the school's website. Students who missed class or want a study aid have ready access to the notes at school and from home.



History comes alive when students have access to primary sources. Websites such as the Library of Congress and the Internet History Sourcebooks Project are excellent sources for primary documents. The IPM 1000 enables Petitgout to share important documents with the entire class. Using the Zoom feature to enlarge the text and the multimedia pen to highlight specific sections of various documents, she directs students' attention to specific portions of the documents during discussions. These same techniques enhance current events lessons, which become livelier when articles from online

newspapers are projected, highlighted, and then discussed. Students also use the IPM 1000 for a variety of activities. For example, they use web-based resources provided by the textbook publisher, or form teams and compete to win online interactive geography games. A popular student activity is developing and playing interactive social studies games using *PowerPoint* and a *Jeopardy!* format.

Although it means she gets less time with the IPM 1000, Petitgout encourages fellow staff members to use the interactive whiteboard in their classes. A workshop she recently conducted ignited interest in several colleagues. “Use of the interactive whiteboard makes such a difference in student engagement and mastery of the material. It’s great to see increased use in other classrooms!”

Impact on teaching:

- Richer, more complex lesson plans.
- Enhanced lessons using video clips, primary sources, virtual field trips and other web-based resources.
- Increased opportunities to share ideas and collaborate with colleagues.

Impact on students:

- Greater mastery of concepts in history and geography.
- Increased engagement in class discussions.
- Opportunities to demonstrate problem-solving and critical thinking skills through game development.