

# Interactive Products Division Numonics Corporation **Case Studies**



## **For Special Education Science Students, the INTELLISLATE® Proves That Seeing Is Believing Is Learning**

**By Ellen Kollie**

“**A**s soon as I saw it, I knew I wanted it,” says Jeanette Emmerich, of the INTELLISLATE wireless portable presentation device. Ironically, the eighth-grade special education science teacher was introduced to it by another teacher in her school, who had purchased a similar product she read about in a professional publication and was successfully using in her classroom.

And so Emmerich asked administrators at her school, Glen Meadow Middle School in Vernon, N.J., if she could purchase one. Happily, the answer was yes. Now she uses the INTELLISLATE to maximize interaction with her students — most of whom have learning disabilities, but still work on grade-level material — while delivering lessons that hold their attention.

The INTELLISLATE, manufactured by Montgomeryville, PA.-based Numonics Corp., communicates with the teacher’s computer through the most reliable RF wireless interface, which plugs into any USB port on the computer. The tablet allows a teacher to easily navigate the computer while roaming the classroom. Unique Softkeys located across the top of the tablet allow instant access to various presentation tools, such as Annotation Pens, Spotlight and Reveal.

Emmerich specifically appreciates the time savings achieved through mobility. “We do a lot of lectures using PowerPoint,” she notes. “Before INTELLISLATE, if I put links to Websites in my PowerPoint presentations, I would have to leave the front of the classroom to reach the computer in the back of the classroom to click on the link and then return to the front of the classroom. Now, I can stand wherever I want and click on the link because the INTELLISLATE pen can be used as a mouse. Navigating through PowerPoint presentations is a whole lot easier.”

In fact, with the INTELLISLATE, Emmerich is taking full advantage of enhancing her lessons with video clips and interactive Websites. “I find that I’m more willing to add to my lessons than I was before, simply because I don’t have to run back and forth to the computer,” she says.

And the students are the ones who benefit. “Because they’re special education students,” Emmerich explains, “multisensory is huge to them. They need to see, hear and have examples. The INTELLISLATE is one way I can do that. I can better reach all of their learning styles.”

Recently, Emmerich was teaching about the change from potential to kinetic energy. She notes that the students were struggling with understanding that energy changes form as opposed to ending. She used a lesson called Transformation of Energy in a Roller Coaster from National Geographic's JASON Project ([www.jason.org](http://www.jason.org)). Her students built a roller coaster online, exhibiting how a roller coaster car starts with potential energy and changes to kinetic energy as it moves downhill. "It had a gauge that showed the potential to kinetic to potential energy changes as the cars moved along the track," she says. "Because they were able to see the energy and how it changes, they understood that energy doesn't go away."

Similarly, Emmerich has been using videos from YouTube and TeacherTube on the INTELLISLATE to ensure student comprehension. "It allows me to show my students things I wouldn't otherwise be able to show them," she says. "For example, from YouTube, I was able to show them a feather and a coin dropping at the same time in a vacuum tube. They both landed at the same time because there was no air friction.

"I think half the time my eighth graders think I'm kidding when I teach science concepts," Emmerich laughs. "With the INTELLISLATE, I add the visual to the auditory, and they see that I'm not kidding!"

Just as Emmerich is noticing an improvement in her lesson content and delivery, so, too, are her students. "They love the INTELLISLATE," she exclaims. "It's different for them; it's fun."

Specifically, Emmerich passes the INTELLISLATE to students to solve problems and label diagrams, giving them the opportunity to use vocabulary from the current lesson. "The students are actively participating," she observes, "but they're not wandering around the classroom, going to and from the board."

With the INTELLISLATE, Emmerich likes that she can display numerous problems at one time, as opposed to having to erase and lose completed examples after solving just a couple of problems. "Also, I can add examples and notes right on the board that the students understand without having to change my PowerPoint presentation for every class," she says. "They respond well when I change examples and base them on their personal interests, such as dirt bike riding or skiing."

It's no surprise that Emmerich has so successfully used the INTELLISLATE to actively engage students and enhance lessons — she's a strong proponent of technology. "I enjoy technology," she explains, "and I think we need to embrace it and not be afraid of it." With that in mind, she plans to take the portable presenter to the next level in her classroom by incorporating RM EasiTeach software into her lessons. She's sure to score an "A" in that lesson.