

Interactive Products Division Numonics Corporation **Case Studies**

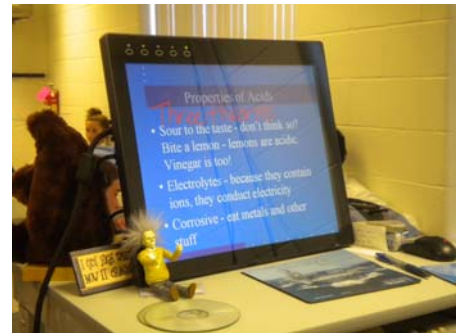


Intellimonitor™ - More effective lesson presentation using a single piece of equipment that supports seamless use of desktop applications and online resources.

By Susan J. Brooks-Young

“P eninsula Catholic High School (PCHS) is a regional 8-12 school in the Diocese of Richmond. Located in Newport News, Virginia the school serves approximately 310 students. The mission of PCHS is to “develop young men and women who are spiritually, intellectually, socially and morally mature by providing a disciplined and nurturing, college preparatory environment rooted in the Catholic tradition.” Established in 1903, PCHS has been co-educational since 1929 and graduated its 100th class in 2010. Students at PCHS consistently excel academically. Nearly 100% of graduates are accepted into colleges or universities and 95% actually attend college. With a success rate of this magnitude it might be tempting for the faculty to rest on its laurels, but this is not the case at PCHS. Teachers are continually looking for ways to increase student engagement and to insure that school programs meet the needs of today’s students.

The INTELLIMONITOR is a 19" LCD tablet monitor. Setup is a snap—install the software on a PC, connect the INTELLIMONITOR to the computer’s USB and VGA ports, plug in the power cord, and the system is ready to use. The INTELLIMONITOR provides an interactive screen which enables teachers to provide instruction using the monitor’s surface and an electronic pen. A floating toolbar provides ready access to presentation tools including Annotation Pens, Reveal, and Spotlight. These can be used to launch video, graphics, and software with a touch of the pen, which also controls all program functions. In addition, the screen capture feature makes it possible to save and retrieve files created or modified during a presentation. The INTELLIMONITOR also comes with an adjustable stand to change viewing and writing angles. Don Pollard, the school’s Science department chair recently became intrigued with the possibility of using the INTELLIMONITOR LCD Tablet Monitor in lieu of an interactive whiteboard, and so he purchased a monitor for his classroom.



Although he’s been at it nearly 14 years, teaching is a second career for Pollard. A retired Navy Captain with a background in electrical engineering, teaching math and science at the secondary level was an obvious choice for Pollard. A veteran technology user, he originally had a computer, a television, and an overhead projector in his classroom. Later the television was replaced with an LCD projector, but Pollard wanted to find an easy-to-use technology that would allow him to use the Internet, make presentations, and project handwritten step-by-step explanations of various concepts without having to switch from one piece of hardware to another. He also wanted something that would allow him to teach facing his students instead of having to have his back to the class much of the time.

Pollard considered using the one portable interactive whiteboard (IWB) owned by the school, but there were constraints. The IWB is shared with the entire staff and needs to be calibrated every time it is moved. In addition, several hours of training are required to take full advantage of its capabilities. When he learned about the INTELLIMONITOR Pollard realized that this affordable piece of equipment was tailor-made for his needs. Once the monitor was installed and the software loaded on his computer, Pollard was ready to go. Basic use of the monitor is so intuitive that Pollard was able to begin using it immediately.

Pollard's focus in 2009-10 has been on exploring ways to use the INTELLIMONITOR to improve instruction. The ability to switch from one method of presentation to another using a single device means more time is spent actually teaching. Maintaining constant eye-contact with students enables him to better gauge pacing of the lesson, slowing down when he sees one or more students are confused and speeding up when students are comfortable with the material. Pollard also is using his classroom website (<http://dpollardchem.weebly.com>) to post links to online resources introduced using the monitor. In the coming school year Pollard plans to expand use of the INTELLIMONITOR to allow students to use the equipment during class for various activities.

Impact on teaching:

- More effective lesson presentation using a single piece of equipment that supports seamless use of desktop applications and online resources
- Increased ability to seize teachable moments using annotation pens and highlighter features to make revisions or additions to presentations during lessons
- More time spent monitoring students' understanding of material and engagement with the lesson

Impact on students:

- Increased engagement in daily lessons
- Interested in use of technology as a tool for learning
- More effective note-taking as a result of annotated presentations