



Description: Stimulating Teachers and Students through mimio® Interactive Technology

no.002

Location: middle school outside Cleveland, Ohio

"I was counting on mimio and a couple of \$40 whiteboards to raise the level of learning for 900 seventh and eighth graders."

~ Paul Gigliotti

mimio®: easier to use means easier learning

Paul Gigliotti teaches US History at a middle school outside Cleveland, Ohio. Paul has an amazing knack for incorporating technology into the curriculum. He often creates video clips, audio files, wikis, teacher homepages and other technology-based tools to better aid his students and is an avid supporter of mimio interactive systems. By using interactive teaching in general and mimio® interactive white boards in specific, Paul has developed ways to stimulate learning both on the part of his students and his colleagues. He is so successful at this he was named Ohio Middle School Teacher of the Year last year by the Ohio Middle School Conference.

Goals and Challenges

Paul is a real technophile. In fact, he has presented technology and interactive whiteboards (IWB) to professional conferences such as the National Council of the Social Studies and the Ohio Middle School Conference. But unlike many others in love with technology, it's not the technology itself that gets him excited; it's how that technology delivers the opportunity for learning that might otherwise be missed. Paul's primary challenge is always to create a more engaging environment for his students. But when it comes to how to create that environment, the challenge is to incorporate technologies that are easy to use for the teacher and cost effective for the administration. Given that his school had used interactive white boards in the past but had not met with a great deal of success with either the teachers or the students – or the administration – Paul needed to demonstrate quickly and convincingly that mimio IWB systems could be a winner on all fronts. As he says, "I was counting on mimio and a couple of \$40 whiteboards to raise the level of learning for 900 seventh and eighth graders."

Meeting the Challenge

There are three major hurdles in getting teachers and administrators to adopt any new technology: proving that it will enhance the students' learning, that it can be used easily, and the cost. Fortunately, Paul was able to overcome all objections. Using the mimio Studio software notebook, tool box and gallery, he can make his classroom lessons come alive with PowerPoint slides, annotated maps and documents, educational websites, instructional CDs and a host of other tools that students not only love but respond to very quickly.



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Using mimio interactive technology to its fullest, Paul's Social Studies courses are a showcase for how effective hands-on teaching methods and classroom tools can turn students into eager learners. And it's this "teaching by example" approach that has lead many of Paul's colleagues to get on board. By watching Paul and mimio's Quick Learn™ online learning offered by there company, many teachers are delighted to realize that they already possess much of the knowledge needed for using mimio technology. Simple tasks like drag-and-drop and highlighting, accessing and using everyday programs like Word and other skills don't need to be relearned – just reapplied. In fact, most teachers are up and running with mimio after just one 45 minute training session. And they develop advanced skills in a matter of days simply by using the technology and taking additional online training.

As for cost, using mimio technology proved a real boon in Paul's case since his school had already tried another IWB and found it less reliable, less adaptable and less easy to use – but quite a bit more costly – than mimio. As he says "Why pay substantially more for a system that is bulky and does less? That makes no sense at all."

Outcome

Today, Paul's school has a number of mimio Interactive systems in use. He finds that once the teacher has a little experience and students get a taste of what it can do, chances are the mimio IWB will be in daily use in the classroom. Using a wide array of interactive techniques, he has gained a reputation as an innovative instructor and his students want more, more, more. With mimio, he can give them more interactive and engaging lesson plans. He even gleefully relates stories of parents attending school conferences specifically to see the "mimio system that my kid is always talking about."