

# Why SMARTboard upgrades are the intelligent choice

### **For parents who haven't seen the new SMARTboards, how would you describe them?**

The new SMARTboard is kind of the new whiteboard, but it can be so much more than a whiteboard because of its versatility. For example, with the new SMARTboard, if we're using it like a whiteboard it will save everything we write and we can bring it back up later to keep working on it. This allows us to be more flexible and we can even move things around on the whiteboard. Specifically, with the new SMARTboard you can move words or letters by just putting a little pressure on it to move it to another part of the screen. Also, you can add video by copying a weblink without using the YouTube version which contains commercials and other distractions, so you know the videos are safe to use.

### **Can you accomplish more with the new SMARTboards?**

Yes. Because of the higher quality of the image on the new SMARTboards, we don't need to turn off the lights in the classroom and that's important because a lot of times we want students to be able to work in their notebooks while the image (or video) is on. Before, we had to turn off the lights and it's dark for them, so now they can watch and interact at the same time.

Also, one issue with the old SMARTboards is we had issues writing on the board. For example, a student could write something on the right side of the SMARTboard and it would show up on the left side of the board and the kids would start laughing and as a teacher you lose all the momentum of the lesson. Now, two students can use the new SMARTboards at the same time which wasn't possible with the old ones.

### **How have the new SMARTboards changed the way you interact with the students?**

The new SMARTboard software creates more of an interaction with the students, so they are all involved in the lesson. For example, teachers can create activities using the software, share a QR code with the students and split them into groups where they can work on different assignments on the same topics at the same time.



During the 2024-2025 Annual Giving campaign, the International School of Orange County is making a push to replace outdated SMARTboards with newer models. The new technology comes with increased capabilities, providing more versatility to our teaching staff and more opportunities for our children to learn. Staff members **Natacha Poirel, Michele Demian, Sandra Brillet** and **Jean Claude Guiol** recently shared their experiences with iSchoolOC parent Gregory Manack about the newest SMARTboards to provide parents a better understanding of their importance to each classroom.

Going off this notion of splitting students into groups, the new SMARTboard software also allows the potential for differentiation in the classroom. Specifically, if you have a student who doesn't understand the topic at a certain level, we can differentiate so they can have an easier version and still stay with the lesson or, on the opposite side, a student who needs more of a challenge can be given a more difficult assignment.

Also, when students move on from here to junior high, high school and college SMARTboards will be what they're going to be seeing. It is really the way

of the future and if we want to stay up with the times and be competitive, this is what we need.

### **How would you characterize the new SMARTboards added value to your classroom?**

When we share something with the students using the SMARTboard, they can respond back with their computers anonymously. This is a huge shift for the class because we may have two or three kids who are very quiet but have many good ideas and thanks to the anonymous nature of the new SMARTboard interactions, they can express themselves more readily.

Another thing for me is long-term projects. We love that we can save what we're doing and come back to it and go to the next step. With the old SMARTboards it felt like we were wasting time trying to include items we already completed. The new SMARTboards really help move projects along more quickly and smoothly.

### **Could you remove this tool from your teaching? If not, then why not?**

There is no choice — we would be very sad to not have these tools because it makes our teaching more interactive. It needs to be understood that thanks to the new SMARTboards, the children are more in-action and more engaged in activities.