

INTERWRITE Lessons

Albertsons Foundation

Boise, ID

InterWrite SchoolPad Key to Interactive Whole Class Teaching

Albertson Foundation*

Established in 1966 by the founder of the Albertson grocery chain, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation is focused on being a catalyst for positive educational change in Idaho. Since its inception, the Foundation has contributed over \$200 million to programs such as "Teaching with Technology," "Creating High Performance Schools," "The Open Book Initiatives," and other programs.

Enhancing Interactivity

"Amazing!" thought Wally Hames as he used the InterWrite SchoolPad for the first time to teach a 6th grade science lesson at Hacker Middle School in the Spring of 2003. Wally had heard of the SchoolPad only a couple of days before. He was impressed with how easy the SchoolPad was to set up and use, as well as with the positive impact using the SchoolPad had on the class. "The classroom absolutely came alive when I used the SchoolPad," remarked Wally. "It freed me up to roam around the classroom. I could engage individual students in a far more interactive way than ever before without losing the focus of the entire class."

Spreading the Word Across Idaho

Since his initial experience with the SchoolPad at Hacker Middle School, Wally has championed its use throughout Idaho as part of his role as an Albertson Foundation Technology Fellow. During his sabbatical from his classroom for a one-year fellowship, Wally helped fellow teachers across Idaho integrate technology into their

classrooms. "I show the SchoolPad to every teacher I encounter and they just absolutely love it," Wally explains. "They love the freedom it provides to teach from anywhere in the classroom. They appreciate the power and intuitiveness of the InterWrite annotation software, whether it is the handwriting conversion, or the pull-down screen. And, of course, the fact that the SchoolPad is really affordable is very important in light of the very tight budgets."

All Types of Classes

While working with teachers across Idaho, Wally has also observed the wide applicability for almost any classroom. As Wally notes, "The SchoolPad has been very well received all across the state, in all types of classes from elementary school to high school." In one high school, a teacher used the SchoolPad to teach AutoCad (a Computer-Aided Design program). The teacher loved the fact that he could walk around the class and observe his students without interrupting his demonstration of the program. In several classrooms, Wally has observed the teachers using the SchoolPad to make annotations on top of a PowerPoint lesson. In another school, the music teacher used the music scale template included in the InterWrite software to teach the children music composition.

"The functionality of the SchoolPad is way beyond anything else on the market," states Wally. "I'd like to see every teacher in the state have one."



Wally conducts lesson on NASA's space program for a group of students at Grandview Elementary School in Grandview, Idaho



Wally fields questions on the SchoolPad from the students.

* The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation does not endorse specific products.

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