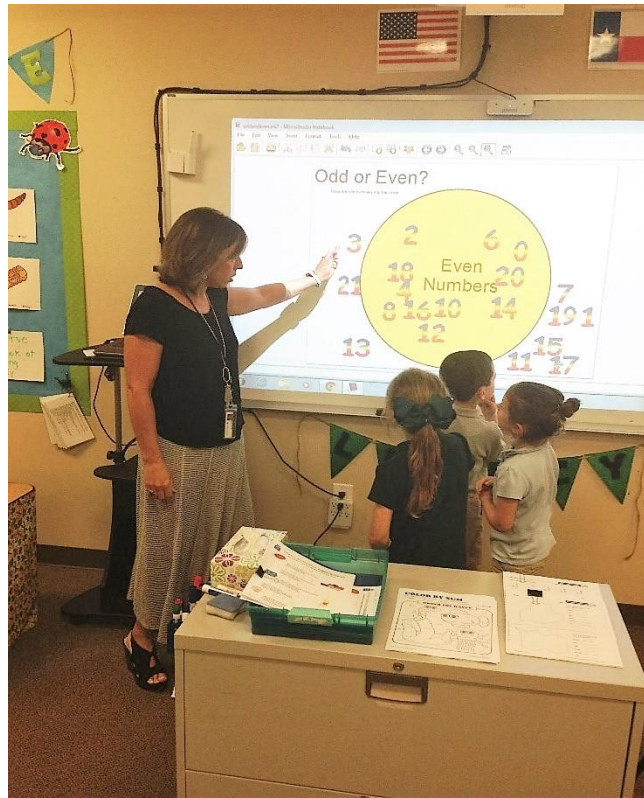


Legacy Prep Adds Mimio Systems to Classrooms



Legacy Prep is excited that we are stepping up our progress towards technology by purchasing Mimio systems for each elementary classroom. The Mimio system creates an interactive whiteboard. Each whiteboard becomes a computer screen that can be viewed by an entire classroom. The Mimio projector projects the content from a computer onto the surface of the whiteboard while the classroom teacher controls the content with a pointer or a touch of the hand instead of a keyboard and mouse. The Mimio systems help Legacy teachers create engaging lessons that focus on one task such as a matching activity where students use either their fingers or a pen to match items like Mrs. Smith's first grade class identifying odd and even numbers on the first day of school.

With these new Mimio systems teachers have the capability to integrate multiple items into a lesson such as websites, photos, and music that students can interact with, respond to verbally or even write comments on the board itself. Image size and placement can change with a simple touch to the screen. This technology makes the one-computer classroom a workable instructional model. Teachers have the capability to now take a class on a photo field trip to new places complete with embedded videos, sounds and mapping software.

Research has proven that students learn better when they are fully engaged and that multisensory, hands-on learning is the best way to engage them. Interactive whiteboards like the Mimio can facilitate multisensory learning whether it is a collaboration exercise for math problem solving or a Google Earth tour of the Amazon rainforest.

Newsweek magazine reported in September of 2008 that more than 70% of primary and secondary schools in the U.K. have interactive whiteboards compared to only 16% in the U.S. The majority of the research findings originate in the U.K., although recent U.S. studies report increased student engagement, school attendance, and higher test scores.

Classroom applications for using interactive whiteboards include:

- Multimedia lessons and presentations including audio and video
- Collaborative problem solving
- Showcasing student projects and presentations
- Virtual field trips
- Recorded lessons that can be used by substitute teachers
- Documentation of student achievement

The purpose of implementing these interactive whiteboards into the elementary classroom is to increase student engagement. This new technology will allow our teachers to integrate multiple information streams into a coherent lesson individualized for their students. The Mimio system will provide an extraordinary opportunity to create classroom environments where students with different learning styles can engage and learn from each other. This technology ensures that both our students and teachers are developing 21st century technology skills.

Written by: Lisa Bontrager, Legacy Prep Elementary Principal