



St. Joseph's Villa math teacher Matt Kwiatkowski integrates the SmartBoard into his daily lesson plans to keep his students actively engaged in class activities.

SmartBoard technology improves students' math scores at St. Joseph's Villa

In June of 2008, Toshiba Business Solutions, with the help of AV Solutions, partnered with St. Joseph's Villa to develop a way to upgrade the Villa's educational facilities. Rather than providing the Villa with pens, pencils and other basic supplies, AV Solutions upgraded Mike Kwiatkowski's math classroom with a SmartBoard.

St. Joseph's Villa is a local nonprofit agency that works to educate at-risk kids and help them become positive members of the community. The SmartBoard provides these students with a hands-on approach to learning. Instead of writing out problems on a chalkboard, students at St. Joseph's Villa now have the ability to enhance their math skills in fun and interactive ways.

Kwiatkowski's geometry class wanted to demonstrate how they incorporate the SmartBoard into their lessons so they invited the Toshiba and AV Solutions' staff to participate in a math game using the SmartBoard. After the lesson, the students and Toshiba staff divided into teams and competed to solve geometry and algebra problems on the SmartBoard.

"For me as a teacher, it's like being in a candy store," Kwiatkowski said. "The SmartBoard offers so many ways to create lessons that are fun and active for the kids. We use it every day and the kids just love it."

Students were so proud of their ability to use the SmartBoard they decided to showcase their skills during the Villa Donor Recognition Open House. A family of past benefactors were so impressed with the students' presentation that they decided to donate two more SmartBoards.

The SmartBoards were such a success with the students that when HSBC offered a monetary donation, St. Joseph's Villa requested it be used for a SmartBoard. Besides math, the SmartBoards are being used in other subjects as well.

The St. Joseph's Villa campus staff have been tracking recent test scores in the various disciplines and have noticed improvement in their students' math scores.

"Nine of the Campus School students took the Regents Integrated Algebra tests and seven passed. That is 78% passing, our highest percentage ever!" says Mary Ellen McArdle, St. Joseph's Villa Director of Community Affairs.

"While we don't have definitive proof that the SmartBoard made the difference, our staff have no other explanation and are leaning in that direction. We plan to continue to track results to see how we'll do," says McArdle. □

