**Interactive Whiteboards**

When reading about and thinking about interactive whiteboards, one thing clearly jumps out in my mind about it all. I can’t help but recall reading how this generation of children has grown up on technology. Children these days are very accustomed to video games, computers, and technology of all sorts. They learn to interact with technology, to use it, to learn from it, and more. Unfortunately, children are not nearly as used to listening to people talk, face-to-face contact, and the like. It is all of these different thoughts that come to mind when I think of interactive whiteboards. I tend to think that these are an awesome way to turn a lecture into an interactive teachable thing. Students do not take kindly to listening to people (especially adults) talk. I notice that when I start talking, it is very easy to lose students’ interest if you are not highly entertaining or talking about something extremely interesting. Most of education is not particularly captivating for all young students! If a student is sitting in a desk listening to an adult talk at them all day, they are very likely to tune out and miss most, if not all, of what is being discussed. Interactive whiteboards seem like an anecdote to this issue. Children are very used to looking at large screens, so they will be likely to be interested and looking at the screen. With the use of the interactive whiteboards is the key piece of interactivity. Students have the opportunity to get up out of their seats, touch the board, manipulate it, use it like they would a computer, and be up, moving, and involved. The physical activity will stimulate them as opposed to just sitting still in their desks, the students will be interested in what is going on and what their classmates are doing at the board, and they will be paying closer attention because they need to get up and interact. I think that the interactive whiteboard is a great way to bring technology and something that the students are familiar with and can relate to into the classroom. I believe that the more students can relate to the way that they are being taught, the more they will be involved, take ownership, and retain.

Another thing that I think is great about the interactive whiteboards that the article talked about is the fact that they are flexible and versatile across age groups and settings. Lessons can be planned for any age group, any subject, and any scenario. There are so many different ways to use an interactive whiteboard; the uses are truly limited by the imagination and creativity of the user! I also agree with what the article said about the flexibility and versatility being extended to the content. Right along with this is the fact that in the same lesson the teacher can have writing on the board, a video, an interactive game, pages that the students need to stand up and manipulate, and so much more. The interactive whiteboard truly caters to different learning styles. In the same lesson the teacher can teach to students who learn best by auditory, visual, kinesthetic and any and every combination of these. I also tend to think that a combination of styles works better than any one style alone. The interactive whiteboard is definitely a perfect tool for this!

Yet another advantage to the interactive whiteboard is, as the article discussed, the efficiency of it all. I completely agree with the fact that interactive whiteboards provide quite a bit of efficiency in teaching. The lesson is self contained on the whiteboard/in the computer, which means that set-up and clean-up are not really an issue. All the lessons can be saved on your computer which means everything is in one place and easy to locate and find. Once the lessons are created (which does take time up front) your lessons are set for the remainder of your teaching time (at least *those* lessons). Having lessons on the computer makes for very efficient sharing and collaborating with other teachers, not only in your school, but also in other schools, districts, states, and even in other countries! It truly enables more varied learning with a high rate of efficiency. This is definitely a huge advantage of interactive whiteboards.

In all, I would argue that the advantages of using interactive whiteboards seem to far outweigh any disadvantages there may be. They seem to have more relevance to our students in this generation and the ones to come. Our students will take more of an ownership of their learning, be more engaged, find more meaning, and be able to relate to their learning better. Interactive whiteboards allow for teaching to all learning styles and combinations of these styles. They provide opportunity for movement and interactivity. They are efficient and allow for sharing of resources among people all over the world. The benefits seem endless and extremely worthwhile! What a great teaching tool the interactive whiteboard can be!