



Franklin Middle School

817 N. Harris St.
Champaign, IL 61820

217-351-3819 (School)
217-351-3729 (Fax)

Ms. Angela Smith, Principal

Mr. Bob Shoda, Asst. Principal

Mrs. Sara Powell, Dean of Students

FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH AND SCIENCE SMARTBOARD INITIATIVE

Franklin is teaming with local businesses to create smart classrooms.
Would you like to be a sponsoring business?

This initiative will impact the education of 578 students at Franklin, in grades six, seven, and eight. Each grade level contains two math classes and two science classes. Out of the 578 students at Franklin, 299 are receiving free or reduced breakfasts and lunches. Many of the low-income students do not have access to a computer at home. The only interaction these students have with technology is at school. The more technology we can offer, the better prepared our students will be for the future.

The ideal approach to engage students in technology based learning is through hands-on interactive lessons. A productive tool which allows for hands-on interactions is the SmartBoard. A SmartBoard is a computerized interactive whiteboard. Every lesson that can be done on a computer can also be done through hands-on contact with a SmartBoard.

This initiative will span the course of three years. We are currently in our second year of the initiative. Our goal is to have three to four teachers receiving SmartBoards each year. By the end of the 2009-2010 school year we hope to reach our goal of twelve SmartBoards in Franklin's math and science classrooms. We currently have seven math and science classrooms equipped with Smart Boards at Franklin. We also have one other science classroom with a mounted projector, but no Smart Board. We are well over half way to our goal, and with your help we will certainly fulfill our goal.

To create Smart classrooms, we must first create Smart teachers. The teachers who will receive the SmartBoards will first receive formal training for the use of the SmartBoard. Second, the teachers will have to create lessons and ideas for the integration of the SmartBoard. Teachers will not only learn how to operate the SmartBoard itself, but they will also learn how to operate the software available for the SmartBoard, and how to develop lessons to enhance the use of technology in the classroom. Third, Franklin will offer a community showcase to promote the use of technology in the classrooms, and to acknowledge our donors. The showcase will not only show our community the incredible use of technology in classroom lessons, but it will also give us a chance to honor the businesses that are helping us create these Smart classrooms. Finally, teachers will also receive ongoing professional development to help them continue providing the best and most up to date technology lessons for their students.

Many of our Math and Science teachers are using computer programs with their students that would be enhanced by the use of a SmartBoard. Math classes are using such programs and Tinker Plots, Geometers Sketch Pad, Fathom, and graphing software provided by Texas Instruments, which utilizes the graphing calculator. Science classes are using Google Earth, Paths of Stars, United Streaming, Discovery Education, Froguts, and many other online programs. Along with the listed programs, there are many others that are specific for SmartBoards. Teachers and students will have the ability to interact with the programs through daily physical contact with the SmartBoards. The SmartBoard allows technology to play an intricate part in the students' classroom education through hands-on interactions with the SmartBoard's touch screen.

Once again, we are looking to our local community and businesses to help fund our SmartBoard initiative. The cost of each Smart Classroom is \$2,469.00, which includes the cost of all the equipment, shipping, and installation. The total cost for the remainder of this project is \$11,229.00. This includes four projectors, five Smart Boards, the cables and installation equipment, and the installation & shipping costs.

If you would like to be a sponsor for this program, please contact Josh Wiechert at Franklin Middle School (217)351-3819 or wiechejo@champaignschools.org.

Current funds have been provided from Lowes, Ameren IP, Donors Choose, Good Search, and The Franklin Online Store.