



Ryan Feehan uses SynchronEyes software 7.0 in his classroom at St. Hilda Junior High School

Teachers use SMART's software to enhance both wired and wireless learning

St. Hilda Junior High School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, provides a unique learning environment. Yet what makes it unique is invisible to the human eye. The school has installed a wireless network that runs alongside its regular computer network. Students can enroll in a program where they are equipped with wireless handheld devices to enhance their learning.

SynchronEyes™ classroom management software 7.0, developed by SMART Technologies, was a perfect fit for St. Hilda. Using the software, teachers can take advantage of one-to-one computing with students, whether the student's computer is wired or wireless.

Teachers can view students' screens to observe their progress, see which websites they are visiting, and lock all screens and keyboards to get everyone's attention. They can evaluate all students at the same time or give personal, immediate attention to individual students.

Ryan Feehan teaches seventh- to ninth-grade at St. Hilda, which consists of about 250 staff and students and is part of the Edmonton Catholic School District. He also acts as the special needs department head at the school. Feehan says SynchronEyes software 7.0 is ideal for monitoring students and keeping them on task.

"It's a really effective program, especially with the ability to lock down other programs. You're able to see exactly what they're up to and where they're going wrong," says Feehan.

SynchronEyes software 7.0 is used primarily for math, science and business classes at St. Hilda. In addition, the software is ideal for the school's personal electronic learning environment program. Students in the program make use of various wireless handheld devices in a paperless and interactive learning environment. The software gives teachers the flexibility to monitor students' computers inside or outside of the classroom.

David Melanson, network specialist at St. Hilda and a pioneer for wireless technology within the school system, helps deliver the program. He says, "Up until recently, teachers had no way of interacting with the wireless handheld devices in the same way we do with SynchronEyes software and our regular wired computers."

St. Hilda installed earlier versions of SMART's software a few years ago, and began using SynchronEyes software 7.0 in December 2006. The software is now installed on 45 student workstations and on 11 teacher workstations.

Melanson says, "In comparing the SMART product to a competitor, SynchronEyes software 7.0 has more functionality at a lower cost."

As a teacher, Feehan finds a variety of features useful. "With the broadcast function, I can broadcast my screen, or any student's screen, to the entire class. With the voting function, I can receive instant responses to surveys and quizzes," he says. "I also have the ability to go on to a Web page and send that page to each student's or to one student's computer."

St. Hilda is also equipped with two SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards and Feehan often uses the interactive whiteboard in conjunction with SynchronEyes software 7.0. He notes, "When you're using tools that will engage the students, it will naturally cause improvements in their academic learning."

SMART Profile St. Hilda Junior High School

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