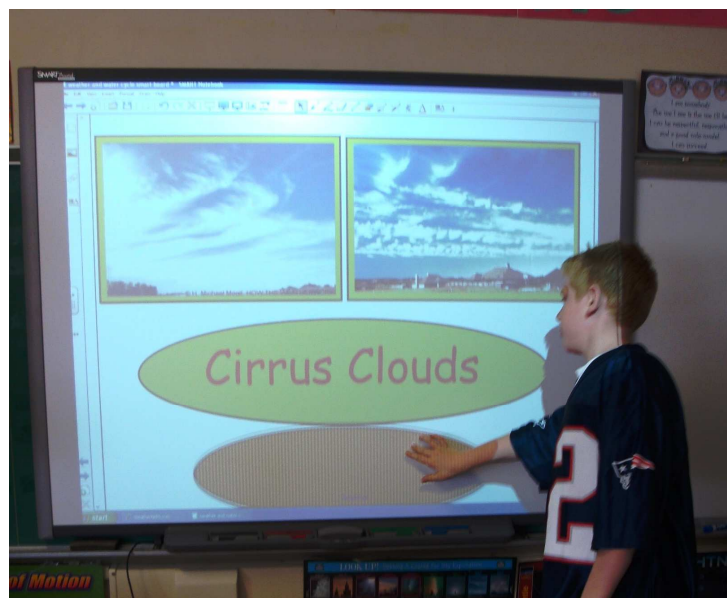


Teaching and Learning in Ravenna Featuring West Main Elementary

In every classroom from preschool through grade 12, teachers are enhancing their instruction by using more visual aids. In recent years, interactive whiteboards have become more visible in the classrooms. The whiteboards are connected to a computer and a data projector. The images from the computer are displayed on the whiteboard, and then the teacher and the students can control the computer and move information around on the board. With 39 interactive whiteboards in the district, our students are gaining 21st Century Learning Skills and will be better prepared for college and the workplace. At West Main Elementary, Mrs. Tiffany Cross has been a leader among the elementary staff in developing lessons and sharing those with other teachers. Along with Tappan Elementary teacher Mrs. Angela Kohl, she has created language arts lessons that are now shared by all fourth grade reading teachers. Mrs. Cross developed Science lessons that have been enhanced by the incorporation of videos, photographs and current data from multiple resources. For example, during a recent lesson on weather, the students were able to access current weather statistics from the National Weather Service and access weather station sites around the world. In the photos, students are shown demonstrating their content knowledge through interactive review lessons.



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As part of the Access to General Curriculum Through Flexible Technology grant, five teachers received professional development training along with data projectors, E-beams (which enable a standard whiteboard to function as an interactive whiteboard), and a document camera. Working together as a fifth grade team, the regular education and special education teachers designed learning units together to meet the Social Studies Academic Content Standards. Incorporated into the lessons and student work were multiple ways for students to learn, be assessed and demonstrate their understanding of content. Some students demonstrated knowledge through traditional paper and pencil tasks, while others shared what they learned through oral presentations, visual documents and projects. The team consisted of Mrs. Ciotti, Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Jordan, all teachers at West Main Elementary, and Mrs. Whipkey-Inman and Mrs. Breznai, teachers at Carlin Elementary. The grant and training support was provided by the State Support Team Region 8, an ODE service center.

Incorporating technology and innovative teaching methods in the classroom generates interest and excitement in learning and sets the stage for success for everyone.

