

DC-S TECHS Project #1 Report – Wii Remote

Team Member: Patrick Lorens

| Dundy County-Stratton Schools SmartBoard Inventory | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Building | Classroom | Curriculum Use |
| <u>Benkelman Elementary</u> | | |
| | Jr. High Science Room | Science and Elementary Guidance |
| | 6th Grade Room | Math and Social Studies |
| <u>Haigler Elementary</u> | | |
| | Portable for use in all classrooms | Music, All Core Curriculum Areas |
| <u>Stratton Elementary</u> | | |
| | Portable for use in all classrooms | Not in use yet |
| <u>Dundy County-Stratton High School</u> | | |
| | English Room | 9-12 English, Speech, & Mock Trial |
| | Family & Consumer Science | FCS, Journalism, Applied Communication |
| | Math Room | 9-12 Math Classes |
| | Science Room | Biology, Anatomy & Physiology |
| | Information Technology Lab | Computer Applications |
| | Business Education | Accounting, Intro to Business, Personal Finance |
| | | |

Comments From Teachers

Mrs. Fox helped me get comments from the teachers that I don't see and I asked my math teacher how he liked his SmartBoard. Mr. Polson, my math teacher, said "I love it!" It really enhances his ability to show graphics, protractor problems, geometry problems, graphs, etc. to the students. Other comments that Mrs. Fox gathered at the lunch table were that "it's great for the students to interact with the board for each lesson." "It's a great tool for the classroom – it makes it so easy to show a website and scroll at the board rather than having to go back and forth between the computer and the board – saves time." The high school English teacher said "it works great for demonstrating grammar lessons --- I can circle the subject and underline the verbs and then save the lesson for students who were absent." The Benkelman 6th grade teacher uses her board on a daily basis and has interactive lessons for her students to use the board. It gets used a lot for math in the 6th grade room.

Wii Interactive Whiteboard Project

The overall project went well. Since we have been cleaning out the server closet at the high school, we had a surplus of old two-button mice and so I had the idea to try to make that work in place of the Push Button switch sent out with the pen materials. I started with an old mouse to hold the battery for the pen. I then had to use a dermal tool to cut out some plastic to fit the battery holder. Next I soldered the positive wire from the battery to a mouse's circuit board where the power is fed to both switches, "the mouse buttons." I then soldered a wire coming from each switch and attached them to the red wire in the mouse cord. Then I connected the ground wire from the battery to the black wire in the mouse cord. Last, I soldered the infrared LED to the red and black wire at the end of the mouse cord and put the LED in a pen tube. We tested it with a camcorder and it worked.

We attempted to use Windows Vista Bluetooth Devices software for the Bluetooth connection to the Wii remote, but had difficulty getting it to work. After failure on the Windows side, we decided to experiment with the Mac (We have four Macs in our school as part of a grant project.) We got the Mac software to work after several frustrating tests. We did not download or install any additional software to make use of the pen.

The Wii Whiteboard would work well for teachers that do presentations or to highlight things, etc. It is an inexpensive tool to use and relatively easy to make. The only thing you need is a Wii remote, a LED pen, a multimedia projector, and Bluetooth software. It also makes a great TECH's project to play with.