Group 6

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Technology in Schools

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Introduction

With technology rapidly growing in schools, certain items seem to increasingly flourish. The expansion of technology enhances learning for all students. The variety of teacher helpers lets students experience school in a whole new way. The 21st century has created a greater use of student computers, webcams, SMART Boards, and PowerPoint projects.

PowerPoint

With all of today’s modern technology, it’s difficult to imagine a school day without the convenience of a computer. One of the most widely used programs in school and business is Microsoft PowerPoint. Rather than writing on chalkboards or whiteboards, teachers and instructors now have the ability to make a slideshow for their students that is not only a simpler and more efficient method, but one that may also be more entertaining to the class.

PowerPoint is a software program made by Microsoft Office and is used for any sort of presentation. It was introduced in 1984 and became successful because it is very simple and can be used by nearly everyone. PowerPoint is in the slideshow format and typically has text bullets, but it can include visuals as well. It is used worldwide, and in 2002, it was estimated that 20 to
30 million PowerPoint presentations are given around the globe every single day. PowerPoint is used in schools especially because it is powerful and effective for both teachers and their classes.

Using PowerPoint in the classroom has numerous benefits for teachers and students. Most students enjoy being taught by a PowerPoint presentation and say that it is entertaining and it holds their attention well. Some also say that it increases their knowledge and understanding over the curriculum. When instructors enhance their slide shows with pictures and other visual aids, the class will obviously find the presentation more interesting. However, PowerPoint has been misused when teachers either use too much text or if they instruct the students to copy everything as notes. Rather than making the class more enjoyable, they are then making it boring.

PowerPoint now can increase learning in the classroom even more with Classroom Response System, or CRS. With this system, each student receives a clicker that is connected to the teacher’s PowerPoint presentation, which can either be used for electronic testing, surveys, polls, or even games. Since every student is involved, CRS increases participation in classrooms, especially with students who are shyer than others. Another bonus of CRS is that there is more engaged learning, and teachers can better understand how well the students comprehend the material being taught.

 Obviously, both CRS PowerPoint and regular PowerPoint are two very effective and convenient teaching methods in schools and are of great importance throughout the world. Though there are various benefits, there are still drawbacks when using these presentations in schools. So, will PowerPoint continue to be a prominent tool in the world of education? Or will it eventually become another outdated relic in technology?

**Webcams**

The number of webcams in schools has increased significantly over the last couple years. More and more teachers are using them to help their students learn. There are seemingly endless uses for this device. Students can see and hear major sporting events, such as the Iditarod. They can experience natural disasters or talk with students in another country. The webcam has become quite popular in schools.

The first webcam began shooting footage in 1991. It was named the CoffeeCam because it was faced at the Trojan room coffee pot at Cambridge University. This camera ran until August 22, 2001. The longest-running webcam has been continuously shooting footage since 1994. This camera is called the FogCam. It is at San Francisco University.

Lately, Apple and other computer manufacturers have had webcams built into their computers. This cuts down on the need to use an external camera. Therefore, this causes their costumers to spend less.

By using zoo and aquarium webcams, students can learn numerous facts about animals that a textbook cannot provide. The students can watch the animals throughout their daily lives. They
can learn about that animal's habits and habitats. The students learn so much just by watching the animals.

How teachers use webcams has greatly affected how students learn. By using webcams, students can truly experience what is happening somewhere else. Also, Elon University upgraded their surveillance system by installing webcams to watch over their campus. This made their university much safer and helped their students to feel more protected. These webcams affect students and schools immensely.

These are but a few examples why this learning device helps students of all ages learn to their full potential. It protects, assists, and provides endless information to students. This helps explain why more and more teachers are using webcams in their classrooms.

**SMART Board**

The SMART Board was founded in 1987 by David Martin and Nancy Knowlton. SMART began as the Canadian distributor for a U.S. projector company. Smart Boards are a type of interactive touch-screen white board that can be used to collaborate and communicate with students in the classroom. A Smart Board is used to show a more detailed presentation to a classroom or group. When using the Smart Board, you are writing on a computer with a special pen instead of keys.

Teachers usually use this to review or to help understand the topic in which they are discussing. Some teachers who own a Smart Board fill out instructions for your assignments. This board might even help you with your homework!

There is a special software package called the Smart Recorder that comes with certain Smart Boards. This allows you to record everything that was written on the Smart Board. It includes both audio and visual appliances. With the Smart Recorder, your written work can play back like a CD that you can see over and over again.

SMART Boards can even help children in foreign locations. For example, children who do not go to school in certain South American countries are given the opportunity to attend a class using a SMART Board. The SMART Board might even replace textbooks some day. This board is very advanced in high-tech processing. Those who have used this board have their level of intelligence increase.

Will the SMART Board be a successful type of technology in the future and help improve learning techniques? The SMART Board seems to give better learning experiences to many children. And also it enhances business graphing and text slide shows. The SMART Board is helping many students around the world. Refer to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U05WeXPG1k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U05WeXPG1k).

**Student Computers**

Schools have started giving their students laptops to help with the learning experience. While there are still many opinions out there, there seems to be one thing on everybody’s mind: Is this
where school is going? Technology is a major part of society. Now it is spreading to the younger
generations, where it seems the only things teens and tweens want is the newest “this” or the
newest “that.” So are we only adding fuel to the fire?

With kids constantly wanting new technology and excitement in school, why would they not get
excited with laptops by their side? Kids would wake up every morning ecstatic to use the laptops
as a learning tool. Wireless computers can guide students to a sense of exploration and
discovery. These laptops will put students in charge of something expensive and breakable,
making kids responsible and respectful. While the laptops can have their fair share of glitches
and faults, it teaches pupils to be patient and persistent, which are skills that may come in handy
for the future. With all the fun, it keeps students focused and concentrated, making the students
want to spend every possible learning experience with the laptop. Computers also can work as
privileges, making the pupils want to behave, which, in turn, will give them access to one of the
wireless computers.

Laptops can have their problems, like slow connections and software glitches, and while they can
teach pupils persistence, after awhile kids can get antsy and annoyed. As most people know,
laptops are expensive and can cause financial issues. Families with younger children are
obligated to pay insurance, in case anything happens to the laptop. Some schools are so positive
they want students to have computers, they are giving financial aid. Students can take negative
advantage of the computers and spend class time on other websites, like social networking sites
and checking their emails. While doing research, plagiarism can tempt many students, half the
time without them even knowing, even though some schools have found software to make sure
there is no cheating. One of the main reasons schools have started using laptops is because of
virtual tests, but internet access can allow pupils easily look up information online.

Computers allow classroom assignments to have limitless possibilities, and let students show
their creativity. Some of the technology based projects are PowerPoints, which are somewhat
like virtual slideshows, mini movies, and brochures. Kids can feel in control and see what
teachers do. Kids build confidence and feel like they can do what their teachers do. And let’s
face it, what kid doesn’t want that?

While some schools restrict their students to just schoolwork, some schools let their students take
their laptops home and use them for other purposes than schoolwork. Most schools give their
students laptops, but some schools are not ready to take that step and have students bring their
own laptops.

So I ask again, are we adding fuel to the fire? Some may say this is where school should be
going and eventually technology is the answer. Others say that school is a place where kids
should learn to basics and not what technology is about. Ask yourself, is this where school is
going? Should we be going here? Is technology key in learning, or not?

Conclusion

In conclusion, computers and technology now play a major part in schools. These four new
devices – webcams, PowerPoint, SMART boards, and student computers – all play a different
role in the lessons they are used in. Strong feelings have been revealed, and controversy has had its battle with technology in education, and is still lurking in its shadows. With all this new technology, the demand for textbooks has decreased. So the question is, will the textbooks be out and technology in?

Works Cited


