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#### CASE STUDIES

### Wayne County School System, Jesup, Ga

By Charlotte Andrist  
Eicher Communications  
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**— Kendall Keith, instructional supervisor for grades six to 12, and Director of Technology and Career Education, Wayne County School System**

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**— Michael Stokes, instructional technology specialist, Oak Vista Elementary**

#### District Profile

The Wayne County School System in rural Jesup, Ga. enrolls more than 5,000 students in one high school, two middle schools, and six elementary grade centers. Approximately 53 percent of students receive free and reduced price lunches.

#### Challenges and Goals

In spring 2002, the Wayne County School System decided to purchase an interactive whiteboard for the new Wayne County High School, which was scheduled to open in the fall. The district saw a growing need for Business instructors to be able to demonstrate a variety of software programs, and show students how to manipulate, store, and revise data. The district also wanted to provide instructors in the Technology and Career Education Department with the opportunity to display PowerPoint presentations, videos, DVDs, and more to expand their curricula.

**“We had planned to use a different interactive whiteboard in the new high school and were ready to place the order, but our school system’s Technology Coordinator, Sarah Edmondson, and her staff said, ‘Please delay the order – you have to come see this new ACTIVboard solution being presented at the Georgia Education Technology Conference!’ I reluctantly went to Savannah on the last day of the conference and was amazed at what I saw. We changed our plans immediately due to the potential that the ACTIVboard offered our teachers in incorporating technology in their instruction. In our opinion, there is no comparison,” said Kendall Keith, instructional supervisor for grades six to 12, and Director of Technology and Career Education for Wayne County Schools.**

**Martha Vredevel, technology specialist at Wayne County High School, added, “When I saw the boards at GAETC in Savannah, I was very impressed with all they could do. I sat at the ACTIVboard area for more than an hour while the board was demonstrated. It seemed to be the perfect addition to the classroom for instructional use. I knew it would definitely benefit our business and vocational classes because of their use of computers and technology in the classroom.”**

Today the district’s goal is to continue to expand the use of the ACTIVboard Collaborative Classroom System to enhance day-to-day instruction, and increase student involvement and achievement.

#### Implementation – Wayne County High School

Wayne County High School enrolls approximately 1,500 students in grades nine through 12. The school began using the ACTIVboard Collaborative Classroom System in fall 2002. The district purchased 10 ACTIVboards, the ACTIVstudio software, and ACTIVote.

The ACTIVboard reseller for Georgia, Compu-trac, helped Wayne County High School install the ACTIVboards and ceiling-mounted data projectors. The new technology implementation also included speakers, DVD players, and VCRs.

"We were amazed at how easily the ACTIVboards mounted on our walls. We actually mounted them right on top of the existing traditional whiteboards allowing the teacher to write using traditional whiteboard markers on each side but use the ACTIVboard in the center," said Keith. "Kevin Talentino, president of Compu-trac, has been great in introducing us to new ways we can help our teachers to interact with the students via this technology."

"After finishing the installation and receiving training from Compu-trac, I am even more convinced that the ACTIVboard should be an instructional tool in every classroom. It is easy to use and has a wide variety of software included to aid in the instruction of almost any subject," said Vredeveld.

At Wayne County High School, ACTIVboards are installed in most of the Technology and Career Education Department classrooms including Automotive Service Technology, Family and Consumer Science, Agri-science, Business and Information Management, and Healthcare Science and Technology Education. In addition, one ACTIVboard is installed in the Mathematics computer lab and one is mobile.

Following are two examples of how instructors have incorporated the ACTIVboards into their daily instruction.

#### Healthcare Science and Technology Education

Dianne Clary, the Healthcare Science and Technology Education teacher, implemented the ACTIVboard in her classroom in fall 2002. In her classes, students in grades nine through 12 explore careers in health, and develop some of the basic knowledge and skills needed to pursue such careers.

Clary finds the ACTIVboard is particularly helpful for teaching anatomy and body systems. "Students are much more engaged with the ACTIVboard because it's so interactive," she said. "When students have a visual to supplement what you're saying, it increases their retention. And, when students are interested in what's going on, there are fewer discipline problems. You have to keep students' minds stimulated or you will lose them. That's the best benefit to me is that the students are so interested in it."

#### Business

Bonnie Gordon is an instructor for business and Cooperative Business Education, a work-study program that places students on the job in business-related fields. She implemented the ACTIVboard in fall 2002 to provide instruction on business software programs in Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Publisher.

"With ACTIVboard, it's a lot easier for students to learn the software and the commands," she said. "When I'm showing students something on the ACTIVboard, they can emulate what I'm doing on their own computers. With software instruction, it's a lot easier to show students every step of the command, rather than trying to tell them what to do".

Gordon uses the ACTIVboard for at least half of each class period to provide software instruction and show videos. Students also use the board to display their own PowerPoint presentations. They appreciate the theater-like environment, and the size and quality of the images displayed on the board. Since implementing the system, the class has realized more tangible benefits as well.

"My failure rate is way down this year," said Gordon. "It's usually at 7 to 8 percent, but this year it's around 1 to 2 percent."

#### Implementation – Oak Vista Elementary

Oak Vista Elementary enrolls more than 600 students in fourth and fifth grades. The school applied for a Title II-D, Enhancing Education through Technology grant. With the grant, it purchased eight ACTIVboards, ACTIVstudio, a set of 32 ACTIVotes, and eight laptop computers.

"We saw the success the new high school had with the ACTIVboard, and began dreaming about how we could use it in an elementary setting," said Michael Stokes, instructional technology specialist for Oak Vista Elementary.

"We want to make our classrooms more interactive and provide hands-on tools to help children become more actively involved," said Danna Lewis, principal of Oak Vista Elementary. "We selected the ACTIVboard system because of the ACTIVstudio software and the different tools you can use to make learning more interactive for students. We felt it would be much more beneficial in our classrooms than any other system."

Stokes agrees. "Comparing the ACTIVboard to other interactive whiteboards is like comparing a Cadillac to a Volkswagen. Nobody comes close to it, particularly because the ACTIVstudio software is so powerful," he said. "The ACTIVboard system will allow for better classroom management, since teachers can be more mobile. It will also help teachers better capture students' attention."

Teachers will begin using the ACTIVboard Collaborative Classroom System in fall 2003. The school will also use an ACTIVboard for professional development for teachers, administrators and staff, and for presentations to parents and the community.

**Results**

**“The ACTIVboard system is very teacher friendly. It allows teachers to present instruction to students in a way that keeps them focused and engaged,” said Keith.**

**“Every new school needs to incorporate the ACTIVboard system in their planning for today’s classroom,” he said. “It is an incredible teaching tool. Promethean has done an excellent job in making this tool perfect for the education market. Our staff believes this is one of the best teaching tools on the market today.”**

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