Getting started engaging students using SMART Notebook

SMART Notebook software is available to all faculty using the Spalding license. The use of this software does not require a SMART Board. The SMART Board only provides the touchy feely experience of an interactive white board. SMART Notebook software can be used with any computer with a projector, and is used to create interactive lessons (presentations) that take the static PowerPoint slides to a whole new level (existing PowerPoint files can be imported).

Download SMART Notebook Software from http://tinyurl.com/smartnbinstall

Please be sure to use your Spalding email address when registering. It is what represents that you have the right to use this license owned by Spalding. The license key is NB-AEAS2-AIQQW-6B6CD-CICSH

This license key is for SMART Notebook ONLY. Any other products you select will be for a 30 day trial only.

I have been working to model using the SMART Board and the SMART Notebook software with my students. Here are a couple ways I have found the SMART Board superior to just using a regular whiteboard.

1. One of the easiest uses for SMART Notebook is attendance before class. Although I have several examples of taking attendance that I downloaded from SMART Exchange (http://exchange.smarttech.com), the simplest example is to type the students’ names on a page and in the lower corner I place a check mark set for infinite cloner. The students simply pull a copy of the check mark up to their name as they enter class.

2. Words written on the SMART board can be converted into type with a simple touch (click) in the top right corner to recognize the writing. For our discussion on 21st Century Skills I have each student come up to the board and write a skill they think all employers would like their employees to exhibit in this new century. SMART Notebook does a great job recognizing even the most difficult hand writing (including script). With SMART Notebook, I can move the words around on the screen, grouping the related words. You can’t move words around on a regular white board, how it is written and where it is written is static. But with SMART Notebook what you write can be dynamic: moving, changing size, spell checking, etc. Note how the 4Cs become prominent with the grouping of the skills. (Please note that a SMART slate is available for use in classrooms that do not have a SMART board. The SMART slate can be used to control SMART Notebook presentations including incorporating handwriting. Because it uses Bluetooth connectivity it can be used anywhere in the classroom, even being passed around to the students for their participation and engagement).
3. Printed handouts of the class notes can also be created similar to a handout in PowerPoint; but they are not limited to the preset slide size. Note in the illustration on the right how page 6 is longer than the others to fit the notes.

Another option is to print the handouts with space for students to take notes.

This can also be used for a reflection exercise following the class. Note in the illustration to the left how the class discussions are included with lines for writing their reflections.

4. I create in-class discussions and have students take turns writing the notes on the board. SMART Notebook pages are not limited to the physical length of the board. Every page can be extended as long as needed to support the exercise.

5. I save the SMART Notebook files with all of the notes, examples, diagrams, etc. used in class and post it to the Moodle course for students to review. This way they get the actual notes from class, with all of the visual clues to facilitate their learning.
   a. SMART Notebook can also create a video of the page, capturing what is both said and written. I have not used this feature yet, but plan to as I move to more online learning.

For additional resources, including links to short videos each demonstrating a skill or feature of SMART Notebook, visit the College of Education blog:
http://blog.spalding.edu/education/resources/smart-board-resources/

Because nothing beats hands-on experience, I attempt to incorporate as many opportunities for my students to touch, write on and interact with the SMART board. That is why the examples provided all reflect the students’ interacting with the SMART board. These lessons could just as easily have been created (typed) before class as you would a PowerPoint presentation.