



“With the eBeam, students can actually interact with the presentations...it gets them up and moving.”

Michelle Farnum, *Special Education Teacher*
VandenBerge Middle School, Elk River, MN

Challenge

Creating a classroom environment that engages and focuses special needs students.

Solution

Create a physically and mentally stimulating learning environment with eBeam interactive technology.

Benefits

- Gets students out from behind desks.
- Allows teacher to demonstrate learning exercises on the board while students follow along on worksheets.
- Contributes to fun and stimulating lessons.

Location

Elk River, MN



eBeam Edge™ increases classroom engagement of special needs students

Being a teacher is never easy, but when your students do not learn like most kids and conventional teaching methods simply don't work, the challenges are compounded. For special education teacher Michelle Farnum, keeping her students engaged with the reading, math, and functional skills is a constant challenge. In order to maintain the focus of her students, Michelle must keep them actively, and often physically, engaged with the lesson material and responding to new ideas. For this reason, Farnum began investigating interactive whiteboard technology as a way to improve her classroom engagement. She eventually purchased an eBeam Edge™ system in 2009 and today, she still uses the eBeam Edge daily to teach students who need special assistance grasping the concepts. “I've got some kids with Down's syndrome, and some non-readers,” she says. Because of these students' special needs in the classroom, Farnum often must keep them physically interacting with the lesson material to hold their attention. Rather than using the eBeam Edge for lectures and presentations, Farnum uses the interactive stylus and downloaded content to directly involve her students in her lessons in more visual and physical ways.

She often starts class by engaging her students in an activity about the day's weather and asking what clothing is appropriate for it. Her students then drag in images of coats and snow to illustrate their conclusions. She also involves them in the learning process by having them cross out days of the week on a projected calendar, and follow math lessons both on their own worksheets. After 14 years of teaching with whiteboards and chalkboards, Farnum finds the eBeam Edge helps her keep both herself and her students active in the classroom and out from behind desks, as well as more engaged with lesson material. “With the eBeam system, students can actually interact with the presentations—it gets them up and moving.” This interactivity has proved valuable to the learning process of her students, and to her own enjoyment of teaching.



VandenBerge Middle School
Elk River Area Schools