



“With eBeam, anything I can pull up on my computer can be projected on the wall. Then, I can manipulate it, work with it, circle it, draw on it. All eyes are on the lesson.”

Edie Conrad, *Teacher and Principal*  
Wachusett Hills Christian School  
Westminster, Massachusetts

**Challenge**

A small, independent school with a small budget but a big commitment to state-of-the-art technology.

**Solution**

eBeam interactive whiteboard systems are cost-effective and help teachers in multi-grade classrooms engage learners of different ages and academic levels.

**Benefits**

- Attractive pricing allows schools with modest budgets to integrate interactive technology
- Retrofittable design allows classrooms to use existing boards and surfaces
- Enables teachers to engage students of all ages with stimulating, hands-on lessons
- Interfaces with classroom equipment, such as digital microscopes, to enlarge the learning opportunity

**Location**

Westminster, Massachusetts



## eBeam Brings Cutting-Edge Technology to a Two-Room Schoolhouse

Nestled in the rolling hills of rural Massachusetts, in a quiet township that traces its roots deep into the 18th century, the Wachusett Hills Christian School was founded 20 years ago to provide a church-based alternative to home-schooling and public school. Starting out with a handful of students and a strong commitment to excellence in education, the small but thriving school is now housed in a building adjacent to its home church, with two multi-grade classrooms, two dedicated teachers and an average of 25 students in Grades 1 through 8.

Originally a home-schooling parent, Edie Conrad enrolled her children in WHCS a year after it was founded. Shortly afterward, she was invited to join the staff as teacher for Grades 1 to 4, and later as school principal.

Four years ago, the denomination’s regional school superintendent, Gary Swinyar, threw down the gauntlet to the 16 schools under his jurisdiction: “Strive to incorporate technology into your teaching!” Edie had seen demonstrations of interactive whiteboards at her daughter’s high school. Pondering the conventional whiteboard in the other teacher’s classroom and the old-fashioned chalkboard in her own, Edie decided the time was right to take up her superintendent’s gauntlet. “This seemed a great way to rise to the challenge,” she said.

After researching interactive whiteboards on the Internet, Edie recognized right away that eBeam’s flexible features and small-budget affordability made it the best choice for WHCS. “I was sold,” she said. She ordered eBeam systems for both classrooms and installed them without a hitch, connecting them to classroom laptop computers. Because the eBeam receiver could attach to any flat surface, Edie could forego buying a whiteboard for her classroom and use eBeam Projection right on the classroom wall.




Edie quickly learned how the eBeam system can enhance participation in the classroom. In oral language lessons, for example, she can make sentence diagramming come alive by drawing boxes around the sentence elements, then having the students come forward to drag and drop the boxes into their proper places in the diagram. In social studies, Edie imports maps from the internet and invites students to “color in” continents or geographical features using the eBeam stylus.

eBeam is ideal for the concrete, pictorial approach of the Singapore Math program: “Students learn to think algebraically by drawing pictures with eBeam as they think through word problems,” said Edie. eBeam is also helpful for teaching long division: “If the students get lost, we can back up, step by step, and then go forward again.”

When her 2nd Graders are learning cursive writing, they interact right on the wall with the eBeam stylus. “It’s better than practicing on paper,” Edie explains, “because students with differing motor skills can draw the letters as big as they want.” The eBeam system also addresses the needs of kinesthetic learners who have difficulty sitting at a desk for long stretches of time: “They can get up, move around the room and interact with the lesson. They stay engaged.”

When a graduating 8th Grade class gave the school a digital microscope two years ago, Edie integrated it into her teaching, using eBeam Projection. “Regular microscopes were problematic because they had to be focused for each viewer. The batteries were sometimes dead, or the lights didn’t work and we would have to use flashlights. Then, the students didn’t always know what they were looking at, and it was sometimes hard to explain. The new digital microscope ties into the computer, and with eBeam, I can circle different parts of a leaf or draw arrows on the parts of a feather so the students can really focus in, or I can take a picture to save for later. The images can be viewed by the whole class at once! Next, we’re going to look at the organisms in local pond water.”

Wachusett Hills Christian School takes pride in its close, caring community and low student-teacher ratio. The school’s success with eBeam interactive whiteboard systems demonstrates how even a small, rural school can fulfill its commitment to educational excellence through the finest tools technology has to offer. With eBeam, the teachers at WHCS can offer innovative, creative and engaging classroom experiences that generate enthusiasm in their students for learning, for technology and for engaging our multi-dimensional world.