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TABLES TURNED FOR TEACHERS

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Ask Kyle Patterson his opinion on Promethean technology, and he'll tell you, "Honestly, I think it's a wonderful, new, exciting, and innovative way to teach and learn."

From his first hand experience, he declares, "I've definitely noticed a change in students' behavior. They become a lot more focused. Getting students up to the board isn't as much of a challenge either; not to mention peer-to-peer learning!"

Mr. Patterson trains teachers on Activstudio software at St. Michael's School in Independence, Ohio. Last winter, he attended Promethean's Sarasota Conference and sums up his experience in two words: 'Loved it!' He adds, "I'm happy I was able to go. The presenters all did a phenomenal job, and I can happily say that I learned quite a few things!"

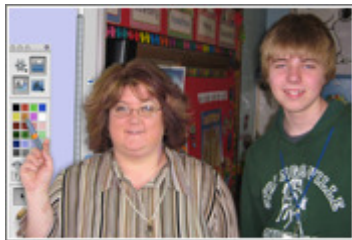
Not Your Average Trainer

Kyle is unique in many ways. For one thing, he's probably the only Sarasota participant who brought his mother to the conference. For another, he's fourteen years old.

His mother, Diane Patterson, was one of the first two teachers to get an Activboard at St. Michael's in the fall of 2007. She received about two hours of training from the reseller, Basic Computer Learning, but still wanted more. Kyle recalls, "Being the wonderful son that I am - okay, she offered some McDonalds - I went up to her school to help set up her classroom and learn how to use Activstudio."

When he first saw an Activboard, he remembers, "It looked to me like an oversized white board. Then it was turned on and I was absolutely astounded. I thought, 'Wow, video games!'" Since then, the school has purchased five more boards. "One thing led to another," Kyle continues, "and it resulted in me spending the week before school technically started, training several of the teachers at St. Michael's in Promethean."

Grasping the Possibilities



In approximately an hour session, he trains each teacher on the various tools. "First I show them how to make a blank flipchart. Then I show them the essentials (pen, highlighter, text, desktop overlay) and then we move on to things from the resource library."

His mother describes him as "a typical teenager who has grown up with technology and is very tech savvy. His 'life plan' for the last several years has been to attend Rochester Institute of Technology and make a career in video game design."

Kyle's in high school now, but his former teachers from his elementary school in Middleburg Heights have also acquired the Activboards and depend on him to come in and help-even on snow days. "Teachers are always around the building even on a free day and love it when Kyle shows up to play on the Activboard with them!" says his mother.

Kyle concludes, "Probably the most-heard question I get from teachers is 'How do you know all this?' I simply smile and say, 'I play and explore.' Most of the teachers I've trained just don't quite understand that they have to explore and play around with the technology in order to truly grasp the possibilities."