vibe

Create / Collaborate / Engage

How To Find The Best Teaching Tool For Your School

Index

Introduction

Education technology purchases have been rapidly increasing in recent years, undoubtedly due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Communication methods have quickly shifted more online, with 65% of teachers expecting their school districts to increase reliance on video conferencing technology after the passing of the pandemic, according to research by EdWeek Research Center.

Video conferencing is not the only technology in which teachers are expecting a continued increased investment. Teachers expect to communicate with students and parents much the same way they communicate with anyone else these days––virtually. Teachers are expecting more professional development provided digitally, increased access to digitally-driven parent outreach, and new efforts to increase students' at-home access to internet connectivity.

While software tools like Blackboard, a Learning Management System (LMS), have been making inroads in K-12 education as well as higher education since the late '90s, there is still an important piece of classroom hardware that needs updating and integration into the digital classroom ecosystem––the whiteboard.

The Death of the Whiteboard

By the end of the 1990s, whiteboards outsold chalkboards by a ratio of four to one. The reason for this wholesale replacement, it turns out, was an increase in the number of computers in schools. Chalk dust and computers don't mix, and dry-erase whiteboards solved the problem. Around the same time, however, the interactive whiteboard began to slowly enter public schools. At their debut, these were relatively simple tools that enabled educators to interact with multimedia content and spend less time erasing their boards.

The death of the traditional whiteboard was a slow one. With many schools having just recently replaced green chalkboards with dry-erase whiteboards, the move to the entirely new hardware system lagged. By 2014, just 45% of K-12 classrooms in the US included an interactive whiteboard. By 2018, this percentage had jumped up to 59%, and has certainly quickly increased in the years since as more schools have felt the pinch to integrate classrooms into the internet.

Interactive whiteboards represent a massive shift forward in the technological capabilities of K-12 and higher education facilities.

Vibe vs. Traditional Dry-Erase Whiteboard Comparison

Take a look at this chart to see all of the advanced features that interactive whiteboards have afforded educators.

Features Supported	vibe Vibe S1 System	Dry-erase whiteboards
Screen-casting	✓	–
Touchscreen	✓	–
Split-screening	✓	–
Annotation	✓	–
Whiteboard software	✓	–
Portable stand included	✓	–
Third-party App Integrations	✓	–
Camera included	✓	–
Mobile companion app included	✓	–
Built for hybrid work and collaboration	✓	–
Simple file saving and sharing	✓	–

The Rise and Fall of Projectors

Projectors have been in use continuously for decades, in one form or another. Either as a bulky lightbox that refracts class materials onto the wall known as an overhead projector, or as a piece of digital equipment hanging from the ceiling that projects a blown-up computer screen onto the wall. No matter which type of projector you grew up with or even still use in school today, both add an element of interactivity into the classroom.

Overhead Projectors

With an overhead projector you can print out class materials on a sheet of translucent plastic and draw on the plastic sheet with a marker, or draw on the whiteboard with a dry-erase marker.

Digital Projectors

Digital projectors have similar capabilities, but instead of just translucent pages, these tools enable educators to display videos, pictures, graphs––any multimedia or web page that you can view on a computer, and project it onto the whiteboard.

Both of these options bring a new level of interactivity into the classroom, helping teachers and students to annotate over images or text, but an issue arises as soon as the projector is switched off. Since the image displayed is just a projection, the annotations you've done on the whiteboard are no longer attached to the content that was previously displayed. The notes can't be sent around to the class or saved for later.

Projectors may have brought some new interactivity to the classroom, but whether they're overhead projectors or digital projectors, they still don't match up to an interactive whiteboard.

Vibe vs. Digital Projectors

Take a look at this chart to see how digital projectors compare to the Vibe S1 system.

Features Supported	vibe Vibe S1 System	Digital Projectors
Screen-casting	✓	✓
Touchscreen	✓	–
Split-screening	✓	✓
Annotation	✓	✓
Whiteboard software	✓	–
Portable stand included	✓	–
Third-party App Integrations	✓	Some models may include this
Camera included	✓	–
Mobile companion app included	✓	–
Built for hybrid work and collaboration	✓	–
Simple file saving and sharing	✓	–

Vibe vs. SMARTTech and Promethean

Comparing Vibe Against SMARTTech

Released by SMART Technologies ULC, SMART Board is an educational collaboration tool for classrooms and workplaces.

Key Takeaway

SMART Board has been a popular choice for school districts, but they offer tiered functionality that requires multiple subscriptions or licenses. Make sure that you have a full understanding of the functionality that you're getting with the included software.

How Much Does SMART Board Cost?

SMART Board prices start at $4,999 for the 6000s series boards, with additional software costs. Users can select from the GX, MX, or 6000s Series.

SMART Board Highlights

SMART Board is available in a range of sizes with varying functionalities. SMART Board 6000 series includes SMART Notebook® basic version. Multiple people can work together directly on the board. SMART Board 6000 series responds to up to 40 touchpoints and can detect whether the user is drawing with a stylus or erasing by hand. You can connect up to eight devices simultaneously for screen sharing. SMART Technologies ULC puts a lot of emphasis on the board as an educational tool, which makes the free subscription to Lumio® by SMART, a digital learning tool and content library, a nice bonus.

What's Missing

The SMART Board has many interesting and useful capabilities, but comes up a bit short compared to the Vibe Board in a few key areas:

- One missed opportunity for the SMART Board––it does not come with a camera or webcam. Whether you're using a webcam to make hybrid learning more personal, or creating videos for students, a webcam is a key addition to your board use.
- SMART does not currently support opening and operating more than one app at once. With the Vibe Board, you can easily split-screen and keep two pages open simultaneously.
- Vibe easily integrates with dozens of third party apps, many that educators use often, like Microsoft Office, Zoom, Google Classroom, Youtube, and many more. These features require IT support with the SMART Board.
- Vibe allows for multiple board users at once, while SMART requires a software license to allow multi-touch whiteboarding.

Vibe vs. SMARTTech Comparison Chart

	 vibe **Vibe Board S1 55"**	 **SMART Board® 6000S series 65"**
Highlights		
Price	$3,599	$4,999
Smartboard hardware	Intel i5 processor 128GB storage	RK3399 32 GB
Real-time whiteboard collaboration	✓ Up to 100 edits, unlimited views	✓ Up to 4 edits. 50 Viewers. Extra cost
Teaching with Video Conferencing	✓	✓ Extra cost
Third-party Apps	✓ Vibe Store, Google Play, Web Store	✓ Need IT support
Screencast & Annotation	✓	✓
Price		
Stand	included in Vibe S1 Bundle for $3,599 total	$1,735 (height adjustable mobile stand)
Optional Accessories	Vibe SmartCam C1 (included in Vibe S1 Bundle for $3,599 total)	Multicolor four-pen bundle Magic pen Highlighter pen Stamps and cubes
Mobile Companion App	✓	✓ Extra cost

	vibe Vibe Board S1 55"	SMART Board® 6000S series 65"
Hardware		
Screen	4K	4K
Aspect Ratio	16:9	16:9
Anti-Glare Coating	✓	✓
Operating System	VibeOS (based on Chromium OS)	Android version 9.0
Connections	HDMI In USB-C with DisplayPort Out USB-C with DisplayPort In USB-C for Debug USB-C 3.0 Ethernet	HDMI® 2.1 ×3, VGA, Stereo 3.5 mm, RS-232, RJ45 ×2, USB-A 2.0, USB-B 2.0, USB-A 3.0 ×3, USB-B 3.0 ×3, USB-C ×2, S/PDIF
Wireless	Wi-Fi 6: IEEE 802.11 a/ b/g/n/ac/ax Compatible Bluetooth Version: 5.1	IEEE 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac with 2 × 2 MIMO (both 2.4 and 5 GHz bands) Bluetooth: 5.0 dual mode
Memory	8 GB DDR4	6 GB DDR
Diagonal Screen	55"	65"
Board Dimensions	50.7" (W) x 29.3" (H) x 3.0" (D)	60 3/8" (W) × 37 5/8" × 4 7/8" (D)
Board Weight	51.6 lb.	112 lb.
Battery	–	–
Whiteboarding		
Multi-user Realtime Whiteboard	✓	✓ Extra cost
Smart Text & Smart Shape	✓	Smart Text Only
Multi Device Support	✓	✓
Cloud Storage	✓	✓

	vibe Vibe Board S1 55"	SMART Board® 6000S series 65"
Casting & Annotation		
Wireless Screen Share	✓	✓
HDMI & Touchback	✓	✓
App Integration		
Simultaneous App Usage	✓	–
Web Browser	✓	✓
Dropbox, Google Drive, One Drive, Box	✓	✓
Service		
Fleet Management	✓	✓
Warranty	1-year Optional extended warranty from 1-3 years	SMART Assure warranty (region dependent)"

Comparing Vibe Against Promethean

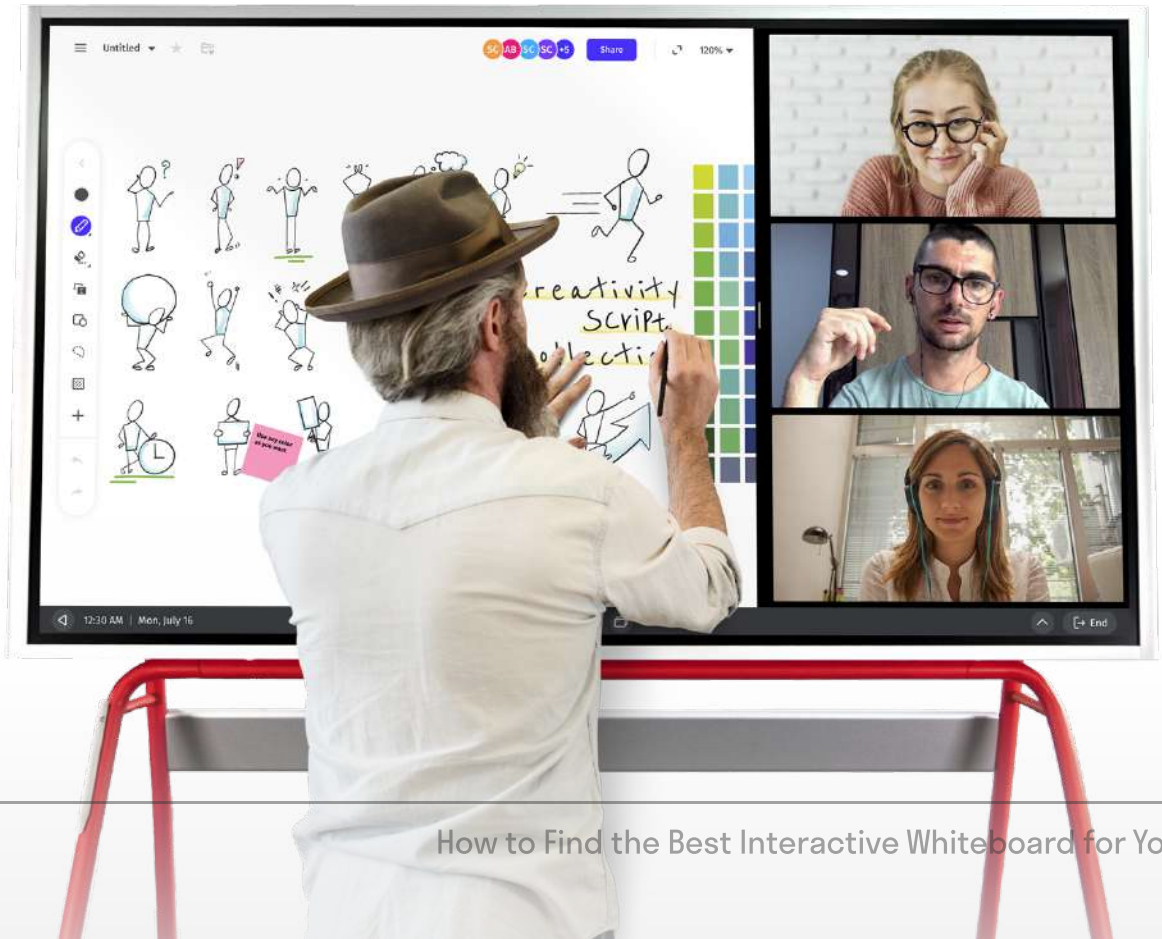
The Promethean ActivPanel Nickel 65″ is an interactive display designed for educators, including a wall mount, and with additional accessories including a mobile stand and camera for distance learning. The ActivPanel Nickel comes in three sizes, including 65″, 75″ and 86″.

Key Takeaway

The Promethean ActivPanel is great for simple classroom uses like whiteboarding, annotating, and screen sharing. Their educational software, ActivInspire and ClassFlow, which come at no additional cost, are excellent resources for educators, delivering activity and lesson creation tools and immersive content. Their use case is quite limited to an education setting, and they have a limited number of applications available in the Promethean App Store.

How Much Does Promethean ActivPanel Nickel 65″ Cost?

The Promethean ActivPanel Nickel 65″ digital whiteboard costs $2,999 and includes a wall mount in the box. If you prefer your digital whiteboard to be mobile for ease of use around the classroom, Promethean's mobile stand costs an additional $500. ClassFlow® and ActivInspire®, Promethean's collections of collaboration tools, are subscription-free and included with the purchase of the board.



Highlights

The ActivPanel Nickel comes with a wall mount; HDMI cable; USB cable; remote control; board-specific pen; regional power cable; wi-fi module; and two antennas. Each school day can bring new challenges and changes to the lesson plan, so it's helpful that the ActivPanel Nickel has a wide variety of connections available, including (but not limited to) two HDMI In, LAN In/Out, and mic in. Similar to other interactive whiteboards, this Promethean model features an infinite canvas and an intuitive writing program that can accommodate up to 15 touchpoints. Users can draw, annotate, and highlight over text and images. The Promethean ActivPanel Nickel has a three year warranty.

What's Missing

The ActivPanel Nickel has a variety of connections and available ports, but it doesn't have an ethernet port, which means users will have to rely solely on Wi-Fi availability. In rural areas with the potential for unstable Wi-Fi connections, this could pose a problem. Users can access third-party apps other than Promethean's ActivInspire and ClassFlow software but are limited to choosing from a list of curated Android apps. To integrate a wider variety of apps from the Google Play Store, users need to purchase the Promethean Chromebox or other Promethean module to boost the board's capabilities. Video conferencing plays a major role in hybrid learning, and users of the ActivPanel Nickel can use Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams for meetings. While this selection is serviceable, it may not meet the needs of every school district.

Vibe vs. Promethean Comparison Chart

	 vibe **Vibe Board S1 55"**	 **Promethean ActivPanel Nickel 65"**
Highlights		
Smartboard hardware	Intel i5 processor 128GB storage	ARM Cortex 16 GB
Real-time whiteboard collaboration	✓	✓
Teaching with Video Conferencing	✓	
Third-party Apps	✓	Need IT Support To Set Up Promethean App Store
Split screen	✓	–
Screencast from any device	✓	✓
Price		
Board	$3,599	$2,999
Stand	Stand included in Vibe S1 Bundle for $3,599 total	$500
Optional Accessories	Vibe SmartCam C1 (included in Vibe S1 Bundle for $3,599 total)	Chromebox, ActivConnect® OPS-M, ActivSoundBar
Mobile Companion App	✓	✓
Software	Vibe Canvas Free Plan and Vibe Admin Console are included	ClassFlow® and ActivInspire® are subscription-free and included

	vibe Vibe Board S1 55"	Promethean ActivPanel Nickel 65"
Hardware		
Screen	4K	4K
Aspect Ratio	16:9	16:9
Anti-Glare Coating	✓	✓
Operating System	VibeOS (based on Chromium OS)	AndroidTM Oreo 8
Connections	HDMI In USB-C with DisplayPort Out USB-C with DisplayPort In USB-C for Debug USB-C 3.0 Ethernet	OPS Slot 2x HDMI In 2x USB-A 2.0 2x USB-B Touch USB-C PD2.0 USB-A 3.0 LAN In/Out RS-232 2x VGA CVBS Mic In
Wireless	Wi-Fi 6: IEEE 802.11 a/ b/g/n/ac/ax Compatible Bluetooth Version: 5.1	IEEE® 802.11a/b/g/n/ac Wireless, 2x2
Memory	8 GB DDR4	2 GB
Diagonal Screen	55″	65″
Board Dimensions	50.7″ (W) x 29.3″ (H) x 3.0″ (D)	60.5″ x 37.8″ x 3.5″
Board Weight	51.6 lb	101 lb
Battery	–	–
Whiteboarding		
Multi-user Realtime Whiteboard	✓ Allows on-site and remote students to work together on the same canvas	✓ Only supports Multi-User Mode on-site

	vibe Vibe Board S1 55"	Promethean ActivPanel Nickel 65"
Whiteboarding		
Smart Text & Smart Shape	✓	✓
Multi Device Support	✓	–
Cloud Storage	✓	✓
Casting & Annotation		
Wireless Screen Share	✓	✓
Annotation	✓	✓
HDMI & Touchback	✓	✓
App Integration		
Simultaneous App Usage	✓	–
Web Browser	✓	✓
Dropbox, Google Drive, One Drive, Box	✓	✓
Service		
Fleet Management	✓	✓
Warranty	1-year Optional extended warranty from 1-3 years	3-year

Vibe Customer Stories

Vibe is already being used in hundreds of classrooms across all age ranges, from kindergarten to higher education. Take a look at the customer stories below to get a better idea of how Vibe can improve student engagement, make learning interactive, and save you time and energy.

Kindergarten teacher Hannah Brown uses Vibe in her classroom to create more engaging lessons, improve digital literacy, and have fun in class. Read her case study to see how.

Vibe Boards in the Classroom

Arek Puzia, Accounting Processor and CPA, needed a way to engage with his newly online classes when the COVID-19 pandemic began. See how Arek uses Vibe to keep classroom communication and engagement strong while teaching remotely.

Vibe Puts the "Community" in Community College

Dr. Austin Alexander, PT, DPT, and an Assistant Professor of Anatomy at Hardin-Simmons University, uses Vibe to teach dissection to his higher education students. See how Dr. Alexander maintains his hands-on curriculum with Vibe in this case study.

Dissecting Vibe's Impact on Virtual Healthcare Learning

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Want to talk to an expert?

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Please contact sales@vibe.us for any questions.
We are happy to help.