



Bringing Lessons to Life:

The Creative Solutions Teachers Use to Engage and Educate

EPSON®

Every day, teachers reach into their bags of tricks to educate, excite, and motivate their students. One of their most-used tools is the projector.

Projectors help teachers manage their daily lesson plans, bring abstract concepts to life, and showcase student work. All of these help keep students engaged in the classroom.

It's not an easy task. In a recent survey, [84% of teachers](#) said their students' post-pandemic attention spans are shorter than ever. In another survey, [33% of teachers](#) said students misbehave "a lot more" than in 2019.

Epson spoke to teachers nationwide to find out what creative strategies they're using to help students get and stay on the path to learning.

[Here are some of their stories.](#)



Manage the class workflow.



Keeping a classroom full of 12- to 14-year-olds on task is no small feat. It's an even bigger feat when the teacher wants students to learn more than scientific facts, said one educator who teaches middle schoolers in Ohio. "The goal is to ensure everyone can participate, debate, and discuss concepts so that their minds are working and thinking."

To achieve that goal, she creates well-organized lessons and uses the classroom projector to help everyone stay on track, decreasing the opportunity for confusion or misbehavior.

She uses the projector throughout the class period, starting by casting a daily agenda of "do now" questions that get students quickly seated, focused, and working. Once the students answer and review the questions, she moves into the agenda, which is projected onto the board. "I put a timer on the agenda, so it's running constantly through the entire class. If you are ever lost, the agenda will have what to do. I'll say, 'Use these notes for this activity or use this video.'"

Using the projector with a big display to share a schedule and focal point that all students can see and follow makes it easier for students to pay attention and keep up with the lesson. With everyone settled in and on the same page, she can open the door to the wonderment and excitement of science.

Don't just talk — show.

An Ohio art teacher can describe the Japanese art of Notan to her middle school students. She can talk about how the art form involves the idea of dark and light, composition, design, and the use of positive and negative space. But it can still be difficult for middle school students to grasp that concept, much less create their own work. Even looking at a photo of the finished product doesn't help students understand how to get from point A to point B.

That's when she uses the classroom projector to show the process. With the large, bright and colorful projection, she draws students' attention to the lesson. "I'm live demonstrating what I'm doing. I can use the document camera to focus in and out. When you're physically doing it, they can stop you in the process. You can go backward, show it, and to make those long-lasting connections of positive and negative spaces, there's no comparison."

Students stay more in tune with the lesson as she highlights areas of interest. "This is a good example of texture. This is a good use of value."

An added bonus of using the projector when demonstrating an art technique is safety.

"They haven't had a lot of eye-hand coordination. I'm working now with utility knives. There could be some hazards if they don't follow the directions."

By using the projector, the students can stay in their seats while still absorbing the lesson — a tactic that decreases inattention and disruption, she said. "The projector can grab students' attention because they aren't fighting with somebody to see the small things in front of me as I demonstrate. It gives the ownership back to the student to be engaged."



Bring abstract concepts to life.

Many students are visual learners. So when teaching math concepts, a visual demonstration can be considerably more effective in clarifying a concept. Consider teaching linear graphs to middle schoolers. These data analysis concepts are useful in showing how relationships change, but they can be difficult to describe with words.

One math teacher in New York uses the projector to illustrate the effect of changing variables on the slope of a line. “They can see in real-time, as I change the slope and make the number in front of the variable X bigger, they can visually see the line gets steeper, and then when it gets vertical, the equation changes to an X equals equation. And then when it goes on the negative slope side, suddenly they’re able to see the visual and how the equation changes the effect on the graph.”



These demonstrations are crucial in capturing students' attention — something that has become more challenging in the last few years. “Students become more attentive when the content that they're looking at or learning is on a big screen with a large display size,” he said. Students also need to move around more. “It's all kinesthetic now. They need to be moving. They need to touch things.”

To meet this need for activity while still instructing, he calls students up to the projector to demonstrate activities. “The first week of school, we talk about it a lot before they start doing it. Try to create a safe atmosphere so kids know they're going to be getting out of their seats and presenting. Even if a kid isn't one of my strongest math students, the second I see him do something correctly, I get them up and have them show the class.”

Beyond using the projector for teacher and student demonstrations, he uses the device in conjunction with other teaching apps that make learning fun for students. “The app has a ton of interactive learning activities that are aligned to the different math standards that have all kinds of visuals where you can see a linear graph grow in real-time. We use the projector to present them because then everyone in the room can see them.”

Students are motivated to work because they can see the points they're earning in real-time, he said. And getting them motivated is essential. “If I didn't have a projector, I would still be able to teach the curriculum, but it's the projector that gets the buy-in from the students, that engagement. It's their interactive involvement. That's the biggest key.”



Get their ‘sillies’ out.

Keeping kids focused and excited about learning is tough. Students’ attention spans decreased post-COVID, so lessons must be short and varied, while still delivering the necessary instruction. With a robust class of 25+ students, lesson plans and execution have to be well-orchestrated. “I have to be peppy to keep them engaged, try to hit ‘em from a lot of different angles with different things,” a New Jersey teacher said.

The classroom projector is a vital part of the day’s success. He plans the entire day with the projector as the main tool. “I make slides before the week starts and that whole day is slide, slide, slide. We roll from one subject to another.”

He uses the projector for every subject — writing out math problems so all students can follow along, clarifying an unknown word from a story being read, annotating text, and broadcasting snippets of book passages. He also uses it to get kids out of their seats for movement activities. “It’s for education and also getting sillies out.”

Along with careful lesson planning and strategic time management, he said the projector is a critical part of successful teaching. “It’s really like my right-hand person.”



Free up teachers to move.



Greek mythology teaches elementary students more than stories: It fosters thinking about character, culture, and history. But some of these concepts are difficult to convey just by reading about Pandora's Box and ancient Greece, said a second-grade teacher in Texas. "They zone totally out until you can bring that slide up and show them Pandora's box and what happens and how it explodes and all the evil comes out. But when I had to just read it, there was no connection."

The visuals that projectors provide appeal to the visual learning style of many students. That helps them stay focused. She said that focus is critical, especially when a lesson may be 30 minutes but the attention span is seven. Now educators have to determine how to break the teaching into digestible chunks, yet still accomplish the goals for the lesson.

And she can do this while walking around her classroom. "When you introduce them to slides with the projector, then you're able to teach as you move around the classroom as you're instructing." With a book in one hand and a clicker in the other, she can read, monitor and move about the class. "So you're not just tied to your book and your desk."

Empower students in their learning.

Engaging high school students in English lessons is challenging at any school. When the students are at risk and can enter or leave the school's rehabilitative program at any time, getting and keeping their attention is vital. A teacher in Iowa understands that, especially for these students, instruction goes beyond teaching literature to bring the world of possibilities into the classroom.

That's why he leans heavily on the classroom projector to help with instruction, casting daily highlights of news from CNN. "Seeing something up on a screen, something big that commands your attention works, especially for these students who wouldn't be so keen on it if I were presenting the exact same thing to them in a lecture."

He uses the projector in every class. One class is studying American painter, Georgia O'Keeffe. "I found several YouTube videos about her. So we watched a little bit of biographical information. We even watched some technical discussions about what her painting was, why it was important, and what she did." The class also watched a program that showed a series of O'Keeffe's paintings that helped them better understand her technique. "Once you get hooked into a laptop and have good connectivity, it can do anything you want. And once you can do that, then the only limit is your imagination."

He also gives life lessons in class. For example, when the students are behaving, he may use the projector to play background music while students work. They know that this is a privilege they can lose if the behaviors don't meet the class norms — a lesson in responsibility.

"If I empower them so they understand they have some of that responsibility too, that's huge. Especially with these kids, this population, who haven't been given a lot of responsibility because they've been in trouble and nobody is trusting them much. Of course, they're handling it by being really cool and being really tough, but we know they're scared to death. And if we can get past all that baloney, I've seen some amazing things happen."





These teachers may be at different schools, teaching different subjects to different ages of students. Yet the teachers have striking similarities: a dedication to students, a keen understanding of how to connect with individuals to ignite a love of learning, and strategic ways to create a vibrant and successful learning environment. Moreover, each of the teachers, like many others across the world, rely on classroom projectors as a “side kick” that offers clarity, structure, involvement, and entertainment, making it easier for teachers to instruct and for students to learn.

Epson brings learning to life

Epson's suite of classroom projectors are easy for teachers to use and help create engaging learning environments for students.



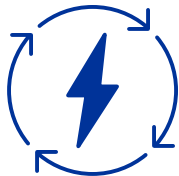
BIG

Connected classrooms require a larger canvas than typical flat panels can provide—for casting, 1:1 sharing, and presenting multiple content streams. Break out of the fixed-aspect-ratio box and introduce students to an immersive experience with laser displays from Epson, the world's best-selling brand of projection technology.



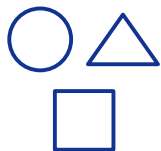
BRIGHT

Epson laser projectors offer outstanding image quality, brilliant color and amazing clarity, capturing students' attention throughout the room. Educators can deliver immersive lessons without compromising whiteboard space.



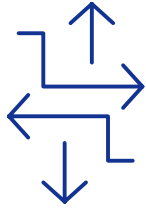
EFFICIENT

Epson laser displays are budget- and user-friendly, with no lamps to change and a low cost per square inch.¹ You'll also enjoy seamless integration and future-proof adaptability, plus customer support every step of the way.



EASY TO USE

Teaching is more complicated than ever, and as today's educators look for new ways to instruct and engage students, Epson projectors can help enhance learning. Epson projectors use familiar tools, like PowerPoint, Word and YouTube, making it easy for educators to create vivid, relevant and memorable lessons, using existing skills.



FLEXIBLE

Flexibility is critical when teaching. With Epson projectors, teachers aren't tied to one part of the classroom. Even better, with the free Epson iProjection™ app², teachers can control content for up to four connected devices, giving them unlimited opportunities to create immersive spaces. Multiple displays and modular seating mean easy readability and engagement for students anywhere in the room.



RELIABLE

When it comes to classroom technology, teachers expect reliability, and Epson goes beyond offering all the bells and whistles. As the world's best-selling brand of projection technology, Epson displays are engineered for reliability and offer unparalleled experiences honed from 40 years of developing groundbreaking educational tools.

1 Versus comparable interactive flat panel displays measuring 65 inches and above. PMA Research data for 2019 1Q-3Q, North America.

2 For wireless functionality, including via the Epson iProjection App, the projector must be configured on a network, either through the Ethernet port on the projector (check model specifications for availability) or via a wireless connection. Check your owner's manual to determine if a wireless LAN module must be purchased separately to enable a wireless connection. Not all Epson projectors are able to be networked. The Epson iProjection App does not support all files and formats. See www.epson.com for details.

Although teaching is more complicated than ever, Epson projectors give teachers one more tool in their bag of tricks to make their jobs easier while boosting student engagement and supporting meaningful learning that lasts.

Learn more at Epson.com/education

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