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Robert Pronovost, *2nd Grade Teacher*  
Belle Haven Elementary School, Menlo Park, California

**Challenge**

Enabling a classroom full of ESL and IEP students to absorb information and meet grade-level requirements.

**Solution**

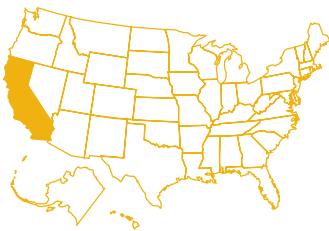
eBeam interactive whiteboard systems allow students to connect easily shared, relevant images with English words and concepts.

**Benefits**

- Allows teacher to quickly customize lessons and examples for a diverse student audience
- Enables ESL students to grasp concepts easily without translation
- Engages students with alternative learning styles

**Location**

Menlo Park, California



## eBeam Gives ESL Students at Belle Haven School the Tools to Succeed

A friend gave Robert Pronovost an eBeam system in 2009 to test out and before long, Pronovost couldn’t remember what teaching without it was like. As a relatively new teacher, he has already experienced the challenge of teaching a class where many of the students need special attention and accommodations. Out of 19 students, 18 are ESL (English as a Second Language) learners. This sometimes creates a language barrier that makes it challenging to ensure that these students absorb information and meet grade level requirements. Pronovost also has some students that are on Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

eBeam systems have allowed Pronovost to bridge this language and culture barrier for his students. Using his eBeam interactive whiteboard system, he is able to easily share images that are relevant to his students while helping them to connect those images with English words.

“When we study Language Arts, the words that my ESL students don’t recognize verbally are made clear through visual examples that I can pull up in seconds,” explained Pronovost. “Recently we studied animal camouflage in nature. Some of the students found this concept difficult to understand, but easily grasped it when I included images and videos in my lesson.”

He is also able to utilize rich visual examples to make concepts in other subjects, like math and science, easier to grasp. “Recently in geometry we were learning about line segments and I was able to visually show the difference between parallel and non parallel lines. Being able to drag and move these lines as examples was priceless.”



Additionally, Pronovost has found that using an interactive whiteboard system in the classroom has transformed the attention of students who previously struggled to focus on the material.

“I have one student in particular that is on an Individual Education Plan,” said Pronovost, “and he is infinitely more responsive and engaged when we are utilizing the eBeam system, especially when he gets to use it himself at the board. He latches onto the information.”

A favorite class activity that his students are enthusiastic about is watching the popular School House Rock videos. Using his eBeam system, Pronovost often plays one of the videos for the class, and then drags those familiar images into the lesson in Scrapbook. This helps his students transfer their initial excitement to the lesson. When Pronovost teaches English, for example, these images help students remember what “subjects” are from the School House Rock grammar video.

