



## August 2008 Newsletter

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[Upgrades, Training Manuals and Videos](#)   [First week of school Community Building with Technology](#)   [Fall 2008 Pricing Specials](#)

[I Want an InterWrite Pad Giveaway Program](#)   [Try CPS, Projectors and IW Pads Before You Buy Evaluation Program](#)   [Calendar](#)

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**W**elcome back to the 2008 – 2009 school year! We hope this finds you eager to jump back into the classroom with renewed energy, enthusiasm and optimism. Our goal is to enhance your teaching and your students learning by connecting you with the best classroom technology available. With free upgrades released this summer for both CPS and InterWrite Workspace, we are confident you'll continue to find eInstruction tools essential for making daily connections with every student. Do you need to upgrade your software? Find it free at [www.einstruction.com](http://www.einstruction.com) and [www.interwritelearning.com](http://www.interwritelearning.com). ExamView upgrades are not free, but we can provide you with a quote if you are interested.

### Resources for Learning More about CPS 5.4 and InterWrite Workspace 7.6

You can access the latest training manuals (PDF) from eInstruction by clicking on these links:

[CPS 5.4 Level 1 Training Guide](#) (download current version of software [here](#))

[InterWrite Workspace 7.6 Level 1 Training Guide](#) (download current version of software [here](#))

[ExamView 6.2 Level 1 Training Guide](#)

(this version can be purchased or acquired through your textbook publisher or the ExamView Learning Series)

[CPS Level 1 Training Guide for Mac](#) (an upgrade is coming soon)

[InterWrite SIMS Videos](#) (these are currently organized alphabetically on an unformatted webpage)

**CPS 5.4 includes these new features:**

- **Verbal Questions and Automatic Charting:** A new setting for "Auto Show Charting" for verbal Questions which allows the user to turn off the automatic charting for verbal questions. ([Video: 1:04 minutes](#))
- **Snapshot Button:** There is now a button on the Question Delivery screen which allows the user to take snapshots of the screen. The image is saved to the hard drive and is attached to the question for reports. So, use verbal questions with any software you like for displaying the question. Just take a snapshot of the screen and you have captured the question for your reports. ([Video 0:58 minutes](#))
- **Question Response Data Export:** New CSV export grouping the question and response stems of each question with response data from the students to facilitate building charts for the questions in MS Excel. ([Video 1:12 minutes](#))
- **Integration with Workspace 7.6:** You can now use your CPS response pads right inside the 7.6 version of the Workspace software from Interwrite. ([Video 3:18 minutes](#))
- **Engage Attendance:** You can now choose an Attendance tab within the Engage workflow tab. This will enable instructors to take attendance without starting a Teacher Managed engage session. ([Video 1:21 minutes](#))
- **Window resizing improvements:** Elements displayed in the Content Deliver window can now be resized to take advantage of screen resolutions greater than 800x600. ([Video 0:41 minutes](#))
- **Improved SEARCH features:** SEARCH is now eInstruction TownCenter. Educators can still find CPS content and can also now easily share their own CPS content with others. ([Video 2:28 minutes](#))
- **State Standards now available in TownCenter:** State Standards are now available via drag and drop in TownCenter. ([Video 1:18 minutes](#))

#### **Workspace 7.6 includes these new features:**

- **CPS Integration** – Seamlessly integrate the Interwrite Board and Pad with CPS for a powerful interactive classroom solution ([Video 3:18 minutes](#))
- **ExamView™ integration** – View questions from the ExamView Learning Series or publisher test banks on the Workspace page for instruction or assessment using student response pads ([Video 0:45 minutes – without response pads](#)) ([Video 3:27 minutes – with response pads](#))
- **Enhanced Tools** – Create gradient backgrounds and snap to grid to make your Workspace pages colorful and aligned. Also, learn about the enhanced text box tool, free form fill and capture tools, stamper, picture pen, and right-click menus. ([Video 4:53 minutes](#))
- **Gallery Interface** – Drag and drop images to personalize your collection into customizable folders ([Video 0:28 minutes](#))
- **Toolbar Customization** – Easily customize your toolbar by dragging and dropping the icons you want to have easily accessible. [InterWrite Learning has created a professional video on this here.](#)
- **Preferences** – Tab-based preferences makes finding options faster and easier [InterWrite Learning has created a professional video on this here.](#)
- **Device Manager** – Graphics-enhanced device manager makes finding your devices easier than ever before ([Video 0:26 minutes](#))

## **Back to School Ideas with CPS Response Pads (clickers) and InterWrite WorkSpace for IW Pads and Boards**

How might you use your CPS clickers, CPS Chalkboard or InterWrite pad to build a safe and collaborative community during the first week of school? Effective teachers know that taking a few minutes during this time to develop and teach routines and establish expectations. Doing so saves precious minutes of potentially wasted time down the road. Diverse students can come together in a learning community if they get to know and respect each others' differences as well as common goals for the time spent in your classroom. Some of you might recognize some of these from an August 2007 blog entry:

### **Using your CPS Response Pads**

1. **Introducing yourself:** create a 10 question Q & A about yourself (with images of your family, home, vacation, favorite things, pets, hobbies) allowing the students to guess. Add humorous alternatives, if possible! (Thanks to Mr. Kellogg at Lowell Scott Middle School in Meridian for reminding me of this idea!)

Q: When Mrs. Jones was a teenager, she worked at \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. McDonald's
- b. Disneyland
- c. getting a tan at Newport Beach

Answer: B with C as a close 2nd!

2. **Introduce the students.** Allow the students to create a list of 2 truths and a lie. Using Verbal mode, use 5 or 6 student submissions per day to help students get to know each other.

Q: Choose Kyle's lie.

- a. Kyle has vacationed in Paris.
- b. Kyle has a V shaped scar on his knee from skateboarding.
- c. Kyle still has his 1000 Pokemon card collection in his closet.

Allow the students to guess A, B or C. I would imagine the results would depend on how well the students already know each other and how thoughtful the choices are.

3. More **academic ideas** include:

- a. Do a learning styles inventory.
- b. Do some diagnostic questions for attitudes about your subject matter or current knowledge level.
- c. Develop teams, learning groups or peer editing circles around some common survey questions.
- d. Practice the Student Paced Assessment mode with a quick 10-question FastGrade lesson. Students simply guess at the answers. In this safe, "even playing field" environment, teachers can show the kind of reporting available at the end of the quiz.

Have a goofy prize available for the best guessers (check out the Instructor Summary under the Reports tab).

### **Using your InterWrite Pad or CPS Chalkboard**

1. Create a table in WorkSpace or RMEasiteach with at least one box per student.
  - a. Add categories like: skis, loves to sing, has at least 3 pets, watches Myth Busters regularly, has read the Twilight series, etc. Use a variety of skills, interests and traits.
  - b. Print and copy papers for each student. In ten minutes (or so), students are instructed to walk around, visit with their classmates, get as many signatures as possible, limited to one classmate per box. When time is called, student with the most signatures wins.
  - c. Collaboratively, using the winning student's paper, try to complete the displayed table with each student's names. You may need to pick up your eraser tool (**TIP – hold down the button closest to the tip of the InterWrite pen to access a small eraser.**)
2. Introduce yourself, classroom procedures,
  - a. Using InterWrite Workspace or RMEasiteach, use the text tool to create a variety of text boxes. To introduce yourself, you might create some text boxes that include some things that are true about you, some of your future goals and some ideas that are not true. Using a graphic organizer (access the gallery in IW and the Multimedia files in RM), tell a few stories about yourself as you drag the text boxes to the correct places on the graphic organizer. Encourage students to guess which items are the "lies".
  - b. Using the text tools, mix up a list of procedures (you could also use the handwriting recognition tool to allow for brainstorming here) common to your class. Pass the pad or chalkboard to a group of students to "organize" the list by dragging and dropping the items into a specific order. Spark discussion about why a certain flow works best in your class.
3. Use the dice or spinner to randomly select a number between 1 and 6. Each number can represent a scenario common in your classroom. Jump to a page in your WorkSpace or EasiTeach book to discuss each scenario and brainstorm possible outcomes. Post positive ideas in your classroom by printing the results or posting on the class website, wiki or blog. Scenarios may include:
  - a. Susie gets to school without her homework and her mom refuses to bring it to her.
  - b. Sam keeps texting under his desk. Raul is getting annoyed by it.

- c. During the poster making activity, Lila insists her group use only using pink and purple pens. When the group tries to use other colors, she folds her arms and refuses to participate.
- d. T.J. forgot his pencil. Pen is not allowed on the quiz.
- e. Some students are frustrated when Mrs. Jones is continuing to go on with the lesson and they feel lost. They aren't clear about what to do on the assignment.

Send additional ideas to [Amy Jones](#) and she'll post them at [www.blueclickers.com/blog](http://www.blueclickers.com/blog).

### **Pricing Specials! Back to School Exam View Learning Series Bundles, Bundle Exam View and the Learning Series with CPS Systems to start the school year.**

- ✓ [Access the flyer for the District Program Bundle here.](#)
- ✓ [Access the flyer for the School Adoption Programs here.](#)
- ✓ [Access the flyer for the Ultimate Classroom Kit Special here.](#)
- ✓ [Access the flyer for the Professional Development with Hardware Special here.](#)

When you [request a quote](#), be sure to specify which bundle you'd like to receive.

### **I Want an InterWrite Pad Giveaway Program**

Visit the InterWrite Learning ["I Want a Pad" site](#) to sign up to host a one hour hands-on Interwrite™ Interactive Classroom Demonstration at your school for 12 or more of your colleagues. Your school will receive a free InterWrite pad simply for hosting the demonstration.

### **Evaluation Program "Try Before You Buy"**

Is your district evaluating multiple response pad systems before "standardizing"? Why is instruction the number one selling "clicker"? Find out for yourself with our free 60-day evaluation program. We'll even provide a projector if you need one! You can [contact me](#) for the details and we'll get you set up right away! [Access the flyer here.](#)

### **Calendar**

August 20 – Salmon River High School, Riggins, ID  
August 21 – Meridian School District Technology Symposium  
August 22 – Compass Charter School  
August 22 – Capital High School  
August 26 – Davenport School District  
September – Demo or Training at your school?  
October 2 – Boise Tech Expo and CPS/IW Math Teacher Training  
October 3 – Blaine County School District

October 19 – Idaho Association of Elementary School Principals – Moscow, ID

**For onsite or online demos, training, product evaluation, pricing and purchase information, please contact:**

**Amy G. Jones**

Account Manager, CIM Technology Solutions, Idaho and E. Washington

**T** 208.602.2661

**F** 208.898.5012

[amyj@cimtechsolutions.com](mailto:amyj@cimtechsolutions.com)

[www.cimtechsolutions.com](http://www.cimtechsolutions.com)

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