

Inspiring Students Through Color And Technology T

(NAPSA)—One thing teachers and students agree on: Color is indispensable in today's changing classrooms.

In fact, a recent survey commissioned by EXPO® dry erase products found that virtually all teachers (95 percent) strive to integrate color in their teaching materials. At the same time, if given the chance to make enhancements to their classroom, more than half of teachers and students would add new technology that actively engages students.

To create vibrant, improved learning environments across the country, EXPO is teaming up with celebrity carpenter/author Paige Hemmis of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and Dana Truby, executive editor of Scholastic Instructor magazine, to kick off the EXPO Classroom Makeover Contest. This national campaign offers educators a chance to win a \$25,000 classroom overhaul, complete with dry erase boards, colorful accessories and mimio®—an interactive whiteboard system that's changing the way teachers teach and students learn.

Tips From Paige Hemmis

"Classrooms and home study areas are often dull and drab environments, but they don't have to be," says Hemmis. Following are a few tips from Hemmis to help enhance student learning:

- **A Brighter Outlook**—Color really livens up the learning process, so it is important to incorporate a lot of it into learning environments.

- A new coat of paint can go a long way. Remember the rule of thumb when buying paint: One gallon of paint typically covers 400 square feet of wall space.

- Think beyond the walls and use color in the furniture, decor and equipment. For example, use a dry erase board to organize notes and thoughts; the colorful markers inspire creativity.

- **Get Tech Savvy**—As technology becomes inextricably integrated into the classroom, make sure students are at ease in the wired world.

- Present a project through a PowerPoint presentation rather than reading notes.

- Publish a Web site and post content about current school projects such as poems, stories, science fair projects or art design concepts.

Rules to Win By

Parents and students are encouraged to ask their teachers to submit a classroom photo and write an essay of no more than 100 words describing why their classrooms deserve a makeover. Essays will be collected through October 15, 2007. Five semifinalists will be selected and their essays and photos will be posted online. Visitors to the Web site can vote for which teacher should win the grand prize: a complete classroom overhaul worth \$25,000. Other prizes will also be awarded, including four first-place prizes of \$5,000 classroom makeovers.

For more information, go to www.expoclassroommakeover.com.