

Benefits of Using Whiteboards Vs. Chalkboards

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Research shows that the switch from using chalkboards in the classroom to using whiteboards has several benefits. A key advantage is that whiteboard markers do not generate dust like chalk. Chalk dust is an irritant that can trigger allergy and asthma issues. Chalk dust particles are also problematic for computers, laptops and other electronics. Whiteboards are comparatively cleaner and provide for clearer presentation of information. Markers are easier to hold and handle than chalk, and are available in a wide variety of colors. Whiteboards can also be used for LCD projection, and many can also be used as magnetic bulletin boards, making them multifunctional classroom tools.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Chalk dust forms “respirable particles” which are easily breathed in and which stay suspended in the atmosphere more readily. Some research shows educators who use chalks and dusters may end up suffering throat and respiratory issues from excessive use of such materials. The American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology recommends students who suffer from allergies or asthma avoid classrooms with chalkboards. Marking on a whiteboard is shown to require less effort and pressure than marking on a chalkboard. The pens are easier to hold and write with, compared to chalk, which may be helpful for people who have limited mobility in their hands.



WHITE BOARD STANDARD

The District’s standard is a Claridge LCS Deluxe series with aluminum frame, available with top map rails and rails for markers. The boards and surfaces are guaranteed for the life of the building, given normal use and care.



MAINTENANCE BENEFITS

Excessive amounts of chalk dust and dirt are a major cause of overheating in computers. Cooling fans can pull dust into the case, even in the cleanest environment. If chalk dust gets pulled into a projection fan, the images will eventually become blurry. Electronic equipment in classrooms with chalkboards or blackboards has to be cleaned more often, leading to increased costs and time for custodial support.



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