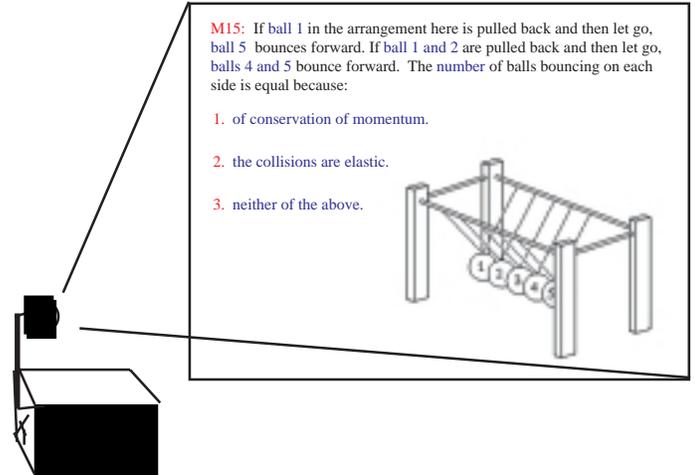# PRS™ - *the Wireless Personal Response System*™

At Better Education we believe the classroom is a special place that offers a unique opportunity for interaction. If you are interested in increasing Classroom interaction and learning, the PRS™ can help you do it effectively and simply. The PRS is a low cost, easy to use, easy to setup, response system. The PRS is also completely scalable and portable. Let your students find out if they really understand, let them try and apply what they've learned while it's still fresh. Challenge them to understand deeper concepts, and find out if what you're telling them is sinking in, - - - before test time. Then, without even trying, you will make class fun and students will find that they enjoy your class much more than the long and sleepy lectures they get elsewhere.

The Teacher Displays a Question

The teacher displays a multiple choice question for the class by simply using an overhead projector and transparencies, or by typing it in using the PRS software. You can even write it on the blackboard or just present it orally. The essence of interactive teaching is a good question, and teachers have a lot of fun thinking them up and seeing how well they work. Questions can be two parts where one part is the answer to the question, and the other, the student confidence level in that answer.

M15: If ball 1 in the arrangement here is pulled back and then let go, ball 5 bounces forward. If ball 1 and 2 are pulled back and then let go, balls 4 and 5 bounce forward. The number of balls bouncing on each side is equal because:

1. of conservation of momentum.

2. the collisions are elastic.

3. neither of the above.

The Students Send in their Answers

When the class is ready the instructor starts the timer and students can send in their answers by simply aiming their transmitters at the nearest receiver and pressing one of 10 answer choice keys. To indicate a confidence level they precede their answer by pressing the "H" button for a high level of confidence or the "L" button for a low level confidence.

To monitor the time and confirm that their messages are received, students watch the screen at the front of the room. The screen can be set in one of two modes. In small classrooms the screen can be fixed so that each student has their own square. When a student sends a message they can tell that it was received because their square changes color for a few seconds.
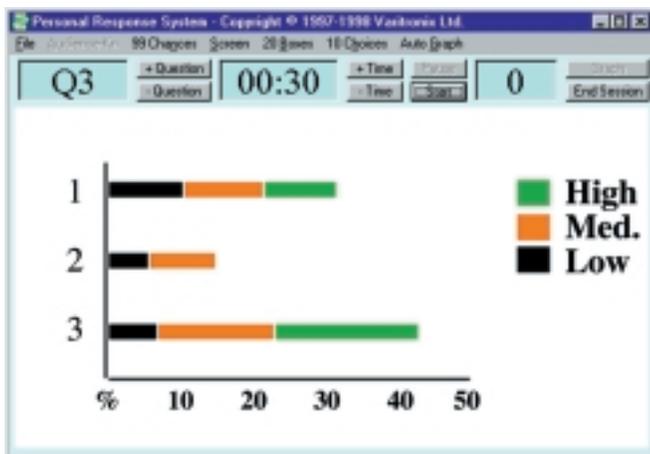
In large classrooms a scrolling list is used. Whenever a message is received the name of the sender is quickly added to the list. When the question time expires, or the teacher stops the timer, a histogram showing a distribution of answers is immediately displayed in front of the class. The PRS allows two modes of operation, the "Anonymous" and the "Known". In the Known mode, student answers are archived and incentive points for participation and correctness can be given using the accompanying Mark™ program.

Dramatic Results

The technology may be simple but the effects on teaching and learning are dramatic. When students discuss issues in class, the whole atmosphere changes and the classroom becomes a much more active, lively, and happy place. This has been shown in hundreds of classes involving thousands of students from elem. school to post graduate.

Also, when students know that their thoughts and understandings are important, four very interesting things tend to happen. Research has shown that students actually,

(1) do more thinking in classes, as well as
(2) understand conceptual issues better (shown in tests), also,
(3) they come to class better prepared to engage, and
(4) they enjoy it more, in spite of also working harder.

v1.3

What you get when you purchase a PRS System

- **A Classroom or Lecture Hall Package**

  IR Receivers - Lecture Hall packages include 2 IR Receivers. Classroom packages have 1 IR Receiver.
  All necessary adapters and cables for power and routing to the teacher's computer are included as well as corner mounting brackets .
  Student Transmitters - Lecture Hall packages include 50 student transmitters. Classroom packages include 30 student transmitters.
  Additional Transmitters and Receivers can be purchased separately.
  ID Changer for Student Transmitters - one is included with each package
  PRS™, Mark™, and Change-ID™ Software plus Manuals.
  The two AA batteries required for each transmitter are NOT included.

- **Installation and Implementation Planning**

  As a special introductory service we include the following:
  - Physical Installation Plan covering placement and distribution of receivers for maximum efficiency; plus routing of cables back to teacher's computer.
  - Complete training workshop for key faculty member(s) - providing everything necessary to prepare yourself and/or other teachers in your department or institution to use the PRS in their classes (EXTRA CHARGE).
  - Customized Logistics Plan - providing insight into important procedures for checking student transmitters in and out, operating transmitter ID changers and maintaining student ID database.

- **Extended Support**

  - Unlimited phone support is provided free of charge for the first year. It is available to any faculty or staff member involved with the system.
  - All teachers will receive a free subscription to the "Interactive Teacher" newsletter and will be notified of related work-shops and symposiums offered at selected national and international educational forums.

- **A Full One Year Warranty for all electronics**

System Requirements

- **Teacher's Computer**

  OS - Must be capable of MS Windows 95 or 98. Macs require Virtual PC$^®$. (Native Mac Software coming soon)
  Serial - Must have available RS232 port or RS485 serial port on a Mac.
  RAM - 32 megabytes is recommended for PC compatible computers. If you are running a Mac with Virtual PC you will need to allocate 32 megabytes explicitly for Virtual PC so a minimum of 64 is desirable.

- **Projection Device**

  A color projector compatible with your video card is required for projection of the PC screen. This is needed so students can confirm that their answers are received, and when the question time is up, a histogram giving the distribution of answers can be shown . Alternatively in small classrooms a TV can be used for this purpose.

Contact Info.

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Pricing

Lecture Package - $2,500
Classroom Package - $1,600
Additional Receiver - $200
Additional Transmitters (10pack) - $480

Cost Estimates for Third Party Equipment

PC Compatible Computer w/Monitor: $500 - $4,000
LCD Projector: $2,000 - $7,000, OR
TV: $400-$2,000 AND Computer to TV Video Converter: $130 - $200

If you would like to speak with or visit a peer that uses the PRS we can help.

Once you've seen it in a real class, you'll know it works!