While there is an inherent joy available in all learning, it can be difficult to focus when even the most fascinating information is poorly presented. Likewise, an energetic presentation will hold more students’ attention even if the subject matter is not of particular interest to them. Extraordinary teachers know this to be true. Given the opportunity to embrace a more vibrant audio visual classroom system, most teachers would happily receive such an upgrade to support their other teaching strategies.

Whether you remember classroom information being written on a chalkboard, marker board, and/or overhead projector likely identifies the decade(s) in which you attended K-12 school. Each piece of education technology of the time had its benefits over the last - marker boards extinguishing the messy chalk, overhead projectors allowing printed classroom materials to be viewed by all at once, etc. - and each pales compared to currently available technology.

With the AV technology flooding the market as educational tools, how do school leaders choose the right audio visual (AV) system? And is every AV product right for every classroom? Below, we explore several different audio-visual products and suggest brands, so that district and school leadership may make education tech buys that best support their educators and students.

**Projectors**

Teachers have huge jobs to do and little time with which to do them. They need projectors that are quick and easy to connect and use, so classroom time can be used productively. Modern projectors allow educators to quickly share anything with the class and transition fluidly from video to other segments of a lesson with the click of a button.

Image is everything - at least in reference to projectors. Modern projectors, such as those by BenQ, Sony, or Panasonic, rely on DLP, 3LCD, or laser technology (say goodbye to the expensive, short-lived lamps of old) to deliver clear, defined images. These modern projectors bring to life streamed videos, relevant clips, and the thrilling ability to collaborate with other classrooms via video chat technology.

**Large Format Displays**

Large format displays, or flat panels, come in two breeds: interactive and non-interactive. Both types have become staples in classrooms across the country, appreciated because they utilize less wall space than a traditional blackboard or whiteboard. Capitalize on limited classroom space with panels, such as those by Clear Touch, LG, or Promethean, that allow teachers to dynamically interact with students and lessons. Large-
format displays are critical for presentations, enabling students or teachers to address the entire class or a specific small group. The options are endless for how flat panels may be used in lessons of any subject.

**Audio Equipment**

Audio equipment not only improves accessibility for hearing challenged students, but helps bring unique student presentations to life. As both teaching styles and students’ preferences expand to include more creativity and elements of dance, spoken word poetry, video creation, rapping, song, and more, the latest audio equipment delivers better sound and functionality. Students have the opportunity to develop skills that aid in future real-world careers.

There are many options for audio, including assisted-listening devices, classroom amplification systems, portable sound systems, and audio players and recorders, as well as individual components and accessories, by trusted companies such as Anchor Audio, Front Row, and Teachlogic.

**Document Cameras**

Multifaceted tools, document cameras may take the place of overhead projectors, copy machines, scanners, digital cameras, and easels. Document cameras, such as those by AVer, ELMO, or Lumens, are useful in any classroom for showing students a textbook passage, critiquing student work or displaying lecture notes, however they are the shining stars of STEM and makerspace classrooms. Science teachers may use them to show the class a specimen (gone are the days of cramming in around a lab table), demonstrating a procedure, sharing lab results, or facilitating peer critiques.

Still have questions? Call us at 1-855-TROXELL. Troxell is the leading supplier of AV technology to U.S. schools, and we have relationships with the top AV manufacturers. Our local Troxell Account Executives are ready to help you navigate your AV tech research with ease. We have experience working to make sure your project meets your deadlines and adheres to your budget.