



Case Study

Highland Tech Charter School

6 – 12

For-Credit Language Study

Leveraging Technology for Academic Credit

Challenge

Highland Tech Charter School (HTCS) needed a language-learning solution that would expand the academic program to allow students the option to acquire high school credit for foreign language study through online delivery for anywhere, anytime study. HTCS sought a technology platform that could be offered as a Language Lab to help students master a new language that could tie to the academic standards required. The school wanted to create a course that blended technology with analytical and contextual assessments that would prepare students to take an oral exam administered by World Language teachers to earn academic credit.

Implementation

HTCS implemented the Rosetta Stone® solution to offer independent language study for Russian, Japanese, Spanish, French, and German. With access to a Language Lab, students would study one Rosetta Stone level per course with an overall score greater than 90%. Students were required to create an Individual Learning Plan outlining the goals, outcomes, and pace specific to their needs. The course included three to five analytical and conceptual assignments in the language learned focusing on culture and language skills. Upon completion of the course, students were given the option to take a comprehensive oral exam administered by a World Language high school teacher in the language learned to receive credit on their transcript.

Benefits

Highland Tech Charter School has experienced the following benefits from implementing the Rosetta Stone solution:

- Expanded for-credit language offerings by 67%
- Participants successfully gained credit on high school transcript for course
- Provided self-select option for language study
- Supported personalized learning environment

HIGHLAND TECH CHARTER SCHOOL

"Rosetta Stone has given us the ability to provide a rigorous program for second language acquisition, in multiple languages, in a system that is unable to financially support on-site World Language Staff."

— Ginger L. Blackmon, EdD
Principal,
Highland Tech Charter School

Providing Personalized Learning

Highland Tech Charter School places emphasis on individual student needs in a project-based environment, leveraging online technology to add instructional value. HTCS believes that all learners do not have equal language needs, and therefore works with students to develop individual learning plans. The plan allows students to self-select the language, define the level of study needed, and establish the timeline for completion through independent study. The school requires the students to complete three to five assessments in the language learned. Offering suggestions for these project-based activities, HTCS allows students to select assessments that best meet their learning needs.

"The Rosetta Stone program with on-line access to native speakers supports our efforts to leverage technology to provide anytime, anywhere teaching and learning for students interested in learning a second language."

— Ginger L. Blackmon, EdD
Principal,
Highland Tech Charter School

Developing a Model with Technology

Prior to implementing the Language Lab course, HTCS found that students were leaving the charter school and enrolling in a local high school to obtain foreign language credit. HTCS needed to find a solution to provide credit options. Due to faculty resource constraints, the school looked for a solution that leveraged state-of-the-art technology and limited instructional resources to meet credit requirements. HTCS created a model

using the Rosetta Stone® solution to build core language skills. Through combining technology with learning assessments, HTCS can ensure that academic standards are met. With a focus on outcomes-based learning, HTCS partners with local high school World Language teachers to administer assessments to learners who complete a Language Lab and want to obtain academic credit. The comprehensive, oral exam confirms that students can demonstrate mastery of the language, justifying a credit on their transcript.

Implementing for Success

The school developed Language Labs, allowing students to select from five languages offered. Each course was mapped to one level of study in the Rosetta Stone solution. Depending on the language studied, students were assigned to either Rosetta Course® lessons or to the Rosetta Stone TOTALe® PRO K-12 program for online study. Learners in languages with TOTALe PRO can access Rosetta Studio® sessions to practice language learned with native speakers as well as participate in language activities in Rosetta World® to reinforce skills and language learned. To ensure objectives were being met, all students were required to attend weekly check-ins with the Assistant Principal to review the learning plans and evaluate progress towards goals.

Realizing Benefits

HTCS has been able to offer courses in all the languages currently available at local high schools as well as expand the languages offered by 67%. Students are no longer required to leave the charter school to obtain foreign language credit. To date, participants who have opted to take the comprehensive exam have received passing grades and earned the attempted credit on their transcript. The program has provided an effective self-select option, empowering learners to acquire a second language through a personalized learning environment.

About Highland Tech Charter School

Highland Tech Charter School is a standards-based learning environment that promotes mastery learning across the curriculum. The Reinventing Schools Coalition (RISC) philosophy of a shared vision, shared leadership, and personal mastery in a system focused on continuous improvement is the foundation that guides the school's program. Attention is placed on individual student learning needs through project-based learning that integrates technology as a key learning tool. Student voice and ownership is encouraged and expected.

www.highlandtech.org

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in all technology-based learning. We offer our clients scalable language and learning solutions for individuals, single classrooms, and entire organizations.

Our solutions have been implemented in over 20,000 schools and in more than 17,000 private and public sector organizations, and they are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.

