



Case Study

LaGrange School District 102

Education: K-5

World Language Exploratory Program

Promoting choice through language exploration.

Challenge

LaGrange School District 102 (LaGrange) wanted a language-learning solution for students in support of the district's 21st century world language and culture goals. LaGrange needed a language-learning technology component to complement curriculum, extend student learning beyond the classroom, and expand the scope of language instruction offered to students. The vision of the district was to find a language-learning solution that would allow students to explore several languages in the fifth grade, both in the classroom and at home. Participation in multiple languages with a solution would provide students with an informed choice when selecting a single language to study in sixth grade and beyond.

Solution

LaGrange implemented the Rosetta Stone® solution to complement the world language program for fifth grade learners. The district offered three trimesters of study, giving students exposure to Spanish, French, Italian, and German, allowing the building of proficiency in three of the four languages offered. Students were required to study sixty minutes per week during class and thirty minutes per week at home. In addition, culture was taught five times per trimester by LaGrange teachers or through outside coaches. This enabled students and parents to make a more informed decision about selecting a single language of study in sixth grade with the goal of increased proficiency in middle school and high school.

Results

LaGrange realized the following benefits from implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution:

- Extended and complemented classroom instruction
- Exhibited an increase of over 53% in vocabulary, 50% in speaking, and 48% in pronunciation skills based on performance in curriculum activities
- Expanded language choice beyond previous years, with over 50% of students selecting a language other than Spanish for sixth grade study
- Averaged over 30% student completion in each language level studied per trimester



"Providing language choice is key for student success in learning language. The Rosetta Stone solution allowed students to select a language of choice for 6th grade study and beyond through the exploratory offering."

— Lori Gehrke, EdD
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction,
LaGrange School District 102

Promoting Language Choice

LaGrange has utilized the Rosetta Stone® solution in the Foreign Language Exploratory (FLEX) program for fifth grade students. The program has allowed students to explore different languages prior to selecting a single language of study when entering sixth grade. Learners could explore up to three languages throughout the year. During the first trimester, all students were required to study Spanish. During the second trimester, students were given the choice of choosing French or Italian, broadening their understanding of other Romance languages. During the third trimester, the district selected German as a non-Romance language for all students to study. At the end of the year, students had exposure to three of the four languages offered, broadening their understanding of language choices for future study.

Complementing Instruction

The district integrated the Rosetta Stone solution into the classroom to complement the foreign language exploratory curriculum. In addition, learning was expanded beyond the classroom through online access, extending learning to at-home study. Students were required to study with the program for sixty minutes per week in the classroom with an additional thirty minutes per week at home. The implementation of the solution also supported required project-based learning activities as well as mandatory culture study provided either by LaGrange teachers or outside coaches.

"Through the implementation of online technology for language learning, LaGrange was able to extend language study beyond the classroom to enable at-home study. The ability to personalize the Rosetta Stone solution met the diverse needs of participants and led to student success."

— Lori Gehrke, EdD
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
LaGrange School District 102

Building 21st Century Skills

The goal of the LaGrange District 102 Elementary and World Languages and Cultures program is to promote communication, increase cultural and global awareness, foster student connections, and make comparisons to the students' local and global communities. The district has broadened the worldview of participating students through the FLEX program offered. The program has provided students an understanding of the importance of language and cultural learning. Students have begun the journey to communicate new languages and understand multiple cultures, strengthening their global citizenship and promoting the 21st century skills critical for success in a global environment.

Realizing Benefits

The district has realized many benefits from the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution. Students accessed the program from home, increasing the number of hours in the program and building proficiency. Curriculum data related to language-skill development was collected during the first trimester of learning. Based on student performance on curriculum activities, learners exhibited an increase of over 53% in vocabulary, 50% in speaking, and 48% in pronunciation skills. Students averaged over 30% completion of the first level of the language assigned to them for each trimester of study. In addition, offering a program that promoted student selection expanded the language choices of students, with over 50% electing to study a language other than Spanish for sixth grade study.

About LaGrange School District 102

LaGrange School District 102 is located in LaGrange Park, Illinois. The district consists of a diverse community rich in tradition. District 102 is committed to ensuring that all students develop the academic abilities and personal attributes necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world by providing an exemplary curriculum delivered by exemplary educators within a respectful and responsive environment which meets the needs of the whole child.

The World Languages Program in District 102 offers elementary students a unique approach to studying language. Designed by the administration and staff in 2011, this program gives students the opportunity to learn a second language and study various cultures. The newly enhanced World Languages program offers students a challenging Spanish curriculum at grades K-4 and new choices for language learning beginning in fifth grade.

www.dist102.k12.il.us

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-based language learning. We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from individual learners to single classrooms to 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.

