



## Case Study

Academy of Information  
Technology & EngineeringEducation  
Grades 9—12Foreign Language  
Blended Instruction

## Leveraging technology to strengthen language skills

### Challenge

The Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE) sought a language-learning solution that would support the four-year language requirement at the school. AITE needed a program that would build critical oral communications skills and prepare graduates for college. Due to block scheduling, AITE needed a solution that would provide continuity with foreign language classroom instruction between scheduled meeting times. The school sought a solution that would be scalable and flexible to support at-home study. In addition, finding a program that could supplement classroom instruction was important for a successful implementation. For languages not offered in the classroom, AITE looked for a solution that would support independent study to meet the language goals required for learners. Last, the school needed a language-learning platform that could support professional development objectives of faculty and staff.

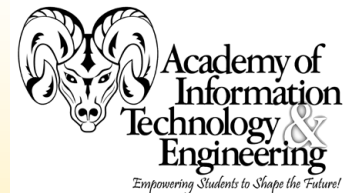
### Implementation

AITE implemented both the Rosetta Course® and TOTALe® PRO K-12 solutions. The Rosetta Course solution was used for all proficiency levels to supplement classroom instruction. It was also used to build language skills through independent study for languages not offered in the classroom. The Rosetta Stone TOTALe PRO solution was used primarily for intermediate-to-advanced students in select languages because of the powerful social learning environments that would help learners gain the confidence to speak the language outside the classroom. For classroom study, they used the Rosetta Stone® solution to “bridge the immersion gap” caused by block scheduling which kept students away from the language classroom for days at a time. Teachers would require students to study 2–3 lessons every other day and students were assigned a grade based on progress in the program. A teaching assistant was assigned to help monitor and manage learner study using the administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™.

### Benefits

AITE has realized the following benefits from implementation:

- Significant increase in pronunciation skills and confidence to speak
- Provided consistent instruction during time away from the classroom due to block scheduling
- Enabled over 90% of learners to graduate with 4 years of language study
- Contributed to increased competitiveness of AITE as a school of choice



### At a Glance:

The Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE), located in Stamford, CT, is an inter-district magnet high school serving students from Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Ridgefield, Stamford, and other communities in southwestern Fairfield County. As a college preparatory high school AITE believes that it is in the best interest of every student to pursue a rigorous high school education.

The mission of AITE is to provide our students with a multitude of learning experiences to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the challenges of the emerging global community through a dynamic, technology rich, college preparatory, small school environment.

*"I could not believe the enthusiasm and engagement my students showed during the Studio Sessions. At first they seemed petrified about the idea of speaking to a complete stranger, but after the first five minutes they were laughing and communicating."*

— Raquel Bonessi  
Academy of Information  
Technology & Engineering  
World Language Department  
Content Leader

#### **Building confidence to speak**

The Rosetta Stone solution was implemented at AITE to increase confidence to speak in the language studied. AITE found this especially challenging with intermediate and advanced learners. Targeting these learners with the Rosetta Stone TOTALe® PRO K-12 solution, the school realized significant increases in the willingness of students to converse with others inside and outside of the language classroom. The Rosetta Studio® sessions were especially helpful in launching students into wanting to communicate with others. One learner stated, "I found the TOTALe Rosetta Stone Studio session to be very helpful in improving my Spanish vocabulary in addition to improving my ability to have a conversation with someone in Spanish." Raquel Bonessi, World Language Content Leader, also stated regarding the Studio session value, "I could not believe the enthusiasm and engagement my students showed during the Studio Sessions. At first they seemed petrified about the idea of speaking to a complete stranger, but after the first five minutes they were laughing and communicating." For learners in both Rosetta Course and TOTALe, the proprietary speech recognition technology allowed them to isolate sounds and move toward better pronunciation. Overall, the Rosetta Stone® solution met the goal of the school to have students converse in their new language.

#### **Bridging the immersion gap**

AITE implemented the Rosetta Stone solution in the language classroom to help overcome the challenges experienced with block scheduling. Using this scheduling process meant that learners would many times go days before they

would be in the classroom with their language teacher. The Rosetta Stone solution was used to bridge this time away from the classroom so that learners could continue to build language skills and confidence to speak. Learner progress was defined based on 2–3 lessons of the program every other day. The administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™, was used to monitor and manage study. Learners were assigned a grade based on progress made in the program. By building the Rosetta Stone solution into language courses, AITE found that students were more confident and engaged when the schedule allowed them to return to the language classroom.

#### **Implementing for success**

AITE focused on implementing the Rosetta Stone solution to gain the most out of the solution given the diverse needs of the school. The school had access to both Rosetta Course and Rosetta Stone TOTALe PRO K-12 solutions. They assigned the appropriate Rosetta Stone solution where it would add the most value for the school. The Rosetta Stone TOTALe PRO solution was used for intermediate and advanced students to supplement classroom instruction. These learners were actively conversing in the classroom and needed the program to continue building skills when away from the teacher. The Rosetta Stone Course solution was targeted for beginners to help get learners gain the confidence to speak their new language. It was also used to build language skills through independent study for languages not offered in the classroom.

Another key to success was the selection of a teaching assistant to co-administrate the program with the coordinator. The assistant would actively monitor and manage student study through the administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager. "Using the reporting tools as well as my own data management skills, I was able to see the difference that Rosetta Stone made with all the students in a quantifiable manner", states Aaron Levy, teaching assistant for AITE's World Language Department. Reports were generated 3–4 times per quarter on learner progress and shared with faculty at the school. The assistant also ensured that the transition from one academic year to another was smooth and effective.

#### **Realizing benefits**

AITE found that the Rosetta Stone solution provided significant increases in pronunciation

skills and confidence to speak the language both inside and outside the classroom. The solution also provided instructional consistency due to the time away from the classroom with block scheduling. The school found that the solution enabled over 90% of learners at AITE to graduate with 4 years of language study. Due to the ability to offer quality programs like the Rosetta Stone solution at the school, AITE found that the solution contributed to increasing overall competitiveness and helped them continue to grow as a school of choice in a highly competitive environment.

#### **About Rosetta Stone**

Rosetta Stone is the global leader in language-learning software. We have over 20 years of experience in developing award-winning innovations that improve the lives of people and operations of organizations every day. Our proprietary and proven immersion method leverages interactive technologies to replicate the environment in which people learn their first languages and activates learners' natural aptitudes for learning a new language regardless of their language backgrounds.

We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from single classrooms to entire organizations and individual learners. Our solutions are implemented in over 15,000 schools, in more than 10,000 private and public sector organizations, and are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.

