

## Building Bilingualism for Global Success

### Challenge

Colvin Run Elementary School (CRES) needed a language-learning solution for learners that would build bilingual skills critical for twenty-first-century success. With a focus on making students more competitive in a global community and broadening worldviews, the school sought a solution appropriate for kindergarten through sixth-grade learners. Having an established Spanish program, CRES needed a solution that could support and expand the existing Spanish curriculum. It also sought an independent-study program that could serve as core instruction for languages like Chinese in which teacher expertise was not available at the school. Believing that language learning boosts the brainpower of students, CRES needed a program in support of academic excellence.

### Implementation

CRES implemented the Rosetta Stone® solution, starting with the Rosetta Course® platform for students learning Spanish. Using teacher resources to practice and reinforce language learned, the school was able to implement a blended-learning approach in the curriculum. CRES expanded language offered beyond available instructional resources by utilizing the Rosetta Stone® TOTALE® PRO K–12 solution for students learning Chinese. The social environments of Rosetta Studio® and Rosetta World® gave learners additional communication practice through a learning village belonging only to CRES students. A language lab funded by the Colvin Run Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) supplied netbooks for student use in a world-language lab, and Smart Board technology was implemented for small group instruction. Coupled with at-home study that extended the classroom day, students completed a minimum of two sessions per week in the Rosetta Stone solution, at 25 minutes per session. The administrative tool, Rosetta Stone Manager™, was used to monitor and manage learner progress.

### Benefits

After 13 weeks of study, learners at CRES realized the following benefits from implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution:

- Over 90% of students improved oral proficiency one or more levels, according to the ACTFL scale
- Listening proficiency, as measured by the National Online Early Language Learning Assessment (NOELLA), increased one or more levels for over 60% of students
- Students traveled abroad and communicated in real-world context
- Students demonstrated increased motivation and confidence to speak



### At a Glance:

Colvin Run Elementary School is a vibrant elementary school of 885 children in Northern Virginia. Students range from preschool to 6th grade. The school offers programs for children requiring special education and advanced academics. It is a core belief of staff and school community that growth occurs as a result of change. The integration of technology throughout the curriculum is prolific at Colvin Run. Students quickly adapt to the use of online resources, applications, programs, and instruction. The staff works diligently with students to provide a progressive and innovative continuum of practices beginning in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

*"Learning a world language is important to the future success of all of us, but especially children who will be participating in a twenty-first-century global community and society. One of the key components of great instruction is the ability to differentiate for all learners, and the Rosetta Stone solution offered us the ability to meet the individual needs of each learner."*

—Stephen Hockett

**Colvin Run Elementary School  
Principal**

### Expanding the Worldview

CRES implemented a language-learning program to expand the worldview of students and prepare learners to participate in a global community. As Stephen Hockett, CRES principal, stated, "Learning a world language is important to the future success of all of us, but especially children who will be participating in a twenty-first-century global community and society." After little more than three months of study, CRES students traveled abroad to practice newly acquired language skills. Students studying Spanish traveled to Costa Rica and those studying Chinese traveled to China. Faculty observed that students were able to easily start conversations and keep them going with native speakers. This included bartering with merchants in markets for items they wished to purchase. CRES students had the confidence to speak their new language, and they had the depth and breadth of language necessary to sustain a conversation. They found that the ability to speak the language of the countries visited allowed them to make deeper connections within the communities and participate in ways that could not have been achieved without knowing the target language. Through the school's language-learning initiative, language barriers were removed and students were motivated and enthusiastic about their host country and the people they encountered."

### Leveraging Technology

In order to effectively implement the Rosetta Stone® solution, CRES needed to have technology in place to support student learning. Working with a diverse population of learners meant that CRES needed a solution that could be customized for individual needs. "One of the key components of great instruction is the ability to differentiate for all learners, and the Rosetta Stone solution offered us the ability to meet the individual needs of each learner," said Stephen Hockett. In addition, through proprietary speech recognition, the Rosetta Stone solution helped learners build the confidence to speak and fine-tune pronunciation of their new language.

Operating under a tight budget, the school had to look for creative ways to finance its technology needs. The school's PTO raised the funds needed to purchase netbooks for a world-languages lab. CRES also was able to obtain funding for Smart Boards to use during small-group instruction. In addition, CRES secured funding to add one new teacher to support implementing a blended-learning approach in the Spanish program.

### Implementing for Success

CRES used block scheduling so students could access the Rosetta Stone solution throughout the school day. All learners were expected to study a minimum of 50 minutes per week at school. They also accessed the online solution after school or at home. The Rosetta Course® solution was used for Spanish instruction, and CRES had a dedicated Spanish teacher to oversee and implement the curriculum through blended-learning instruction. That teacher worked with students in the language lab, rotating them into small groups every four weeks for 30 minutes of instruction per session, using a Smart Board to reinforce learning. For Chinese-language instruction, the school utilized the Rosetta Stone® TOTALe® PRO K-12 solution to provide the instructional support needed. The solution provided learner support without requiring CRES to invest in additional instructional resources.

Students were able to participate in Rosetta Studio® sessions during the school day to practice and reinforce language learned. Students studied independently, and, for every unit of study, they were required to participate in Studio sessions with Studio Coaches who are native speakers trained to interact with K-12 learners. The Rosetta Studio® and Rosetta World® environments engaged learners to build the confidence they needed to communicate their new language.

### Realizing Benefits

CRES has experienced many benefits from the Rosetta Stone solution. With a goal of building bilingual skills for students to participate in a global community, the school was able to test learners to see if language proficiency was being developed to meet this goal. A battery of tests was administered to students after 13 weeks of study. Oral-proficiency testing indicated that over 90% of students participating increased one or more levels, as measured by the ACTFL scale. Listening comprehension was evaluated with the NOELLA, which showed that 61% of students improved listening skills one level or more. Overall, students were able to build confidence to speak their new language.

### About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-based language learning. With 20 years of experience behind us, we're continuing to develop award-winning innovations that improve the lives of people and the operations of organizations every day.

Our proprietary, proven method leverages interactive technologies to replicate the immersion environment in which people learn their first language, and it activates each learner's natural aptitude for acquiring a new language regardless of language background. 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.



Education