



Rosetta Stone Customer Spotlight:

DIOCESE OF FRESNO

A Catholic diocese recognizes importance of world languages to parents and students

World languages as added value

Located in California's southern San Joaquin Valley, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno is home to 17 preschools, 20 K-8 schools and two high schools, serving nearly 4,000 students. A center for farming and agriculture, Fresno is home to Hispanics, Asians, Portuguese, and descendants from other European countries. That demographic diversity is reflected in its student population as well.

Historically, the Diocese had provided only a sporadic language offering to students. But as the world became more global, with more jobs dependent on bilingual skills, the Diocese began looking into options for language instruction. They also recognized that parents would see a world language program as an added value to tuition fees. The Diocese of Fresno looks to set that standard for other Catholic dioceses in the state.

A successful pilot test spurs widespread use

During the 2017-2018 academic year and under the leadership of principal Kelli Michaud, the parish supplemented the cost of piloting a Rosetta Stone® language learning solution at Our Lady of Perpetual Health in Bakersfield. The Diocese is a firm proponent of choice, and it allowed each student to select the language they wanted to study. In the pilot year, the school formed the Rosetta Stone Club, during which K-8 students (and their families) could use the online program before or after school. Of the 480 students in the school, 50 opted to



participate, along with a handful of parents. Among the languages studied were Spanish, Italian, French, Japanese, and Latin. One eighth grader even completed all the Latin modules – not an easy feat.

The reaction to the online learning product was overwhelmingly positive, and students were clearly engaged and self-motivated. That prompted the Diocese to implement the program in every K-8 school beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year with the purchase of 4,000 licenses. Students in K-5 are studying Spanish, while those in grades 6-8 can choose the language they wish to pursue.

And though not part of the original plan, the pre-K students in the Diocese are using the program in limited amounts as well.

"Foreign language studies enhance students' problem-solving skills, promote brain development, prepare students for a global job market, and provide the opportunity for students to make deeper multicultural connections."

Kelli Michaud, principal,
Diocese of Fresno

Customizing the Rosetta Stone solution for each school

Usage of the Rosetta Stone® program varies from school to school, depending on students' language needs. Some schools schedule usage time in the computer labs of 20 minutes each day, three or four times a week. Other schools feature Language Learning Centers where students work in small groups on iPads and Chromebooks. And still other schools use the online program in conjunction with instruction by language teachers.

At the Catholic School of Visalia, George McCann Memorial Campus, the program is being used as a means for middle schoolers to interact with younger learners. Seventh graders meet one-on-one with students in third through sixth grades to assist with onboarding of the product, answering questions, and showing them how the program works. The seventh graders assist the youngest of learners (K-2) in small groups.



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno

About the Catholic Diocese of Fresno

In the Diocese of Fresno, the primary mission of Catholic school education is to be an effective instrument of the Catholic Church in its ministry of teaching the Gospel message and assisting children to grow into fullness of life in Jesus. This mission supports parents in their role as the primary educators of their children. This mission is accomplished at each school through the efforts of the school's pastor, parishioners, staff, parents, and students who form a faith community. This faith community is the vehicle for developing in students the responsibility for founding and promoting a society rooted in justice, love, and peace.

For more information about Catholic Diocese of Fresno visit: <https://dioceseoffresno.org>

"Rosetta Stone is an excellent addition to our curriculum. It has enabled our students to take their world language development to the next level by readying them for college, career, and literacy in a world where global counterparts are a mere click away. We can now get to places faster and easier, communicate with people around the world in milliseconds, and we know more people from around the globe. "English is no longer the common language of the world and as Americans, we need to be respectful of that."

**Donna Smith, assistant superintendent,
Diocese of Fresno**

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language and learning solutions for individuals, classrooms, and organizations.

Our scalable, interactive solutions have been used by over 12,000 businesses, 9,000 public sector organizations, and 22,000 education institutions worldwide, and by millions of learners in over 150 countries.