



Rosetta Stone Customer Spotlight:

# BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## A Student-Centered Approach to Language Learning

### Bringing language learning into the digital world

Located in suburban Fairfield County, Connecticut, Bethel Public School District serves nearly 3,000 students in grades PK-12. The district, comprised of five schools – three elementary, one middle, and one high school – is committed to working with families and the community to foster a culture of excellence by providing students with high-quality teachers and optimized learning opportunities. For example, Bethel has long offered its students world language courses, but when faced with the language teacher shortage that has affected 44 states and the District of Columbia, the district had to look at alternative ways to continue its language program. It decided to leverage technology newly made available to them through a 1:1 initiative. Recognizing the advantages language learning affords in the growing global marketplace, the school district implemented a personalized language program that put students at the center of their learning experience.

### Personalizing instruction for student success

During the 2016-2017 school year, Bethel launched its first-ever 1:1 initiative, in which every student in the district received a Chromebook. The devices, which can be used within and outside classroom walls, exposes students to more challenging curricula and personalized instruction to prepare them for future academic and career success.

With the arrival of the Chromebooks, Bethel High School (BHS) began implementation of Rosetta Stone® digital language learning, offering students the opportunity to learn world languages in an engaging and flexible environment for credit. Through the program:

- Approximately 100 students enrolled in the Digital Spanish A, part of a blended learning approach using the Rosetta Stone program for the basis of its content, while a teacher provided supplemental instruction.



- Students' knowledge was measured through assessments that take place at the end of each lesson. Students could not move on in the curriculum until they mastered the previous level.
- Though world language is not a graduation requirement at BHS, students can gain the increasingly valued language-learning experience and credits for which college admissions offices are looking.
- Students could apply to participate in the school's Digital Language Independent Study Class, to learn Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, Dari, Dutch, Filipino-Tagalog, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Japanese, Korean, Pashto, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Vietnamese, Italian, or German.

After Bethel completed its first year of formal implementation, the initial results were encouraging. In the years prior to the implementation of the blended Rosetta Stone program, 25 percent of students who had participated in the course equivalent to Digital Spanish A did not pass. At the conclusion of the 2016-17 school year, more than 90 percent of students passed the course and six students participating in the independent study

program received language credits in French, Italian, Hindi and Korean. Because of this success, BHS will offer an additional Digital Spanish B course for the coming school year, incorporating some project-based learning into the curriculum. BHS is also looking to implement the Rosetta Stone® English language digital program for its growing population of English Language Learners (ELLs)

### A safe learning environment for students

Once BHS started using the new digital language program, student interest in language learning increased. In fact, approximately 150 students have enrolled in either Digital Spanish A, B, or independent language study for the 2017-18 school year – a 36 percent increase from the previous year. Considering the state of Connecticut does not require world language as a graduation requirement, this level of participation far exceeded the district's expectations.

*"We've seen such an improvement in our students enrolled in language courses since incorporating Rosetta Stone into our curriculum. Not only are students passing the course, they are truly engaged in the work. As we strive to ensure every student is equipped with the skills -- bilingualism included -- required for life after graduation, we're excited to continue to expand our language offerings using the program."*

Chris Troetti, Principal, Bethel High School

### Increased Classroom Flexibility

By implementing the Rosetta Stone program into their classrooms, language teachers at BHS gained greater flexibility in instruction and the ability to serve more students. The student-centered program allowed teachers to personalize every student's learning experience using intervention materials and small group instruction, and successfully increased class sizes from 15 to 30 students.

Because the Rosetta Stone program is personalized, students felt confident in their learning. This had a tremendous impact on students who suffered from chronic absenteeism and struggled upon returning to class due to missed learning time. Students using the self-paced program were more motivated and more likely to pass the course. There was also no embarrassment or fear of being called upon, creating a predictable learning environment.

### About Bethel Public Schools

The mission of the Bethel Public Schools, in partnership with families and the community, is to foster a culture of excellence and achievement accomplished by challenging curricula, committed teaching, and optimized learning opportunities for all students. Our graduates will be resilient and perseverant, passionate self-directed learners, critical thinkers, college or career ready, considerate ethical citizens, and globally competitive.



Home of Academic Excellence

Bethel is located just a few minutes east of New York State and 68 miles north of Manhattan. It is both one of the smallest and one of the newest (a mere 150 years old!) towns in western Connecticut.

For more information about Bethel Public Schools, visit [www.bethel.k12.ct.us](http://www.bethel.k12.ct.us).

### 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.