

School authorities at Foran High School wanted to introduce language learning technology that would satisfy high community expectations for outstanding student results. They turned to SANAKO Study 1200 to ensure that they would meet those expectations.

Foran High School

- Comprehensive high school in Milford, Connecticut
- 1000 students enrolled
- Languages taught: French, Latin, Spanish
- 65% of students studying Spanish

Joseph A. Foran High School is one of two high schools in Milford, Connecticut. The Milford community is fairly affluent, and is growing as the number of residents commuting to other locations has increased. As a community in transition, the expectations for education of the district's students have been rising correspondingly.

Those expectations coupled with the needs of the student population lead Foran High School Principal Michael Cummings to support the acquisition of SANAKO Study 1200. "We wanted an ability to facilitate the work, especially in situations where for example, you have 25 students and one teacher," he explained. The school also wanted to have technology that would not replace teachers, but would help them to be more efficient and allow them to more effectively monitor students and their work.

With these considerations in mind the school selected Study 1200 to drive its languages program. For Spanish teacher and Milford District Languages Coordinator Ed Connolly, practice, particularly in oral exercises is important in learning a language. He says Study 1200 allows students to practice with confidence, strengthen their pronunciation, and listen better to help correct errors in speech. "It gave my students the opportunity to use languages. If you have a large class like we have here, how often do they get a chance to use the language? Sanako allows them to talk for a few minutes and it allows me to later on monitor how they are doing."

SANAKO Study 1200

- Installed in language classroom
- Provides opportunities for oral practice for each student
- Offers more teacher-student and student-student interaction
- Allows teachers to monitor student activity
- Improves efficiency – teachers can do more in less time

Total Student Engagement for Effective Learning

According to the Spanish teacher, the software is engaging for students, an important factor in effective learning. When students become active participants in learning, they can take on more responsibility in correcting their own weaknesses. "They are much more engaged in front of the computer than otherwise. They all try their best and are engaged at all times. There is no downtime with this. I can have a list of activities on the screen and the students can choose what they need the most. It homes in on areas of weakness that they need to work on," he explained.



Students are much more engaged and participate more actively in learning with SANAKO Study 1200.



Other language teachers at Foran High School have also been impressed with what Study 1200 allows them to do in the language class. Mr. Connolly says teachers like the multi-layered communication features in the software. "It's a nice way to delineate activities you have in store for the class. Our Latin teacher has recorded his voice and he wants students to listen to him speaking Latin and they will have to answer questions. Others have used it with a PowerPoint presentation. There are so many ways how you can use this that you just need to sit down and brainstorm," he adds.

An Exciting Learning Environment

It's not only the teaching staff and administration at Foran High School who are full of praise for Study 1200 and its many possibilities. Students are also more excited about learning in this environment. 17-year old Jo-Marie said she has found that working with Study 1200 has helped her develop the confidence to speak out loud in the foreign language. "In the beginning I was very nervous and self conscious about how I sounded. The more I practiced the easier and more fun it has become. You learn how to use the language as well. This gives you the opportunity to hear yourself speaking with others and to answer questions."



The Milford community has great expectations of Foran High School; SANAKO Study 1200 is helping meet those expectations.

She has also developed a preference for certain activities that she feels prepare her for using the language more effectively. "I like when we are given a prompt, like a movie to watch and then are asked 10 things about the movie. It's like sit down and go, because in real life, its fast situations, you don't have time to think of what you say."

District Language Coordinator Ed Connolly sums up the potential of the Study 1200 software best when he points out that Study 1200 makes teachers more effective - preparation, delivery and management of the class take less time, and creates more time for actual teaching. "I can have 28 students do an exercise in 4-5 minutes which before would have taken an entire period, look how much time you can save!"Tandberg

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