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STJ To Offer 25 Foreign Languages

Saint James School (STJ) will offer 25 foreign language choices for students beginning in 2013-14, including the superior instruction already provided in Spanish, Latin, and French. Through a new site license agreement with Rosetta Stone Classroom, the expanded range of language options includes Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Dutch, German, Filipino, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Farsi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Swedish, Turkish, and Vietnamese, among others.

“Saint James School is again leading the way in providing unique opportunities for students in Central Alabama,” said Head of School Melba Richardson. “After months of study and discussion we’ve selected Rosetta Stone Classroom as one more valuable resource we offer to give our students a competitive edge in the global 21st Century world.”

Students in elementary, middle and high school will have 24/7 access to Rosetta Stone Classroom, the more structured, educational version of the highly-respected multiple language curriculum. Access to the program will be available from home or school on a full 12-month basis, allowing students to incorporate learning throughout the summer months as well as during the academic year.

“Another significant benefit of using Rosetta Stone Classroom at Saint James is that we’ll provide all international K-12 students an English language subscription to the program,” said STJ Academic Dean Susan Atkins. “This is of tremendous benefit to students who are English Language Learners, because it supplements the English they hear in the classroom and the assistance they receive through our ESL tutoring program. Access to English through Rosetta Stone Classroom also allows these students to learn at a rate commensurate with their age and knowledge level.”

Richardson said faculty and staff will also participate in the new multiple language initiative. “Greater learning opportunities for our teachers only enrich the overall learning experience for our students, because teachers weave what they’ve learned back into the classroom.”

Although Saint James School has made a significant investment in the Rosetta Stone Classroom site license, Richardson said the learning program is provided at no additional expense to students or faculty.

“High school students may self-select a language and register for a graded, elective credit class with Rosetta Stone Classroom as the primary delivery method of instruction,” Atkins said. “The International Language Lab will be facilitated by a teacher who will assist students in learning more about the country whose language they are learning. Students will be expected to reach identified benchmarks and be graded. Other high school students may opt to take an Independent Study of any of the 25 languages offered.”

“STJ’s middle school and elementary language teacher will assist middle school students in picking a language by assessing their interest and knowledge of a given country, much as a band director assists students in picking a band instrument,” Atkins said. “As a result the program will be very individualized. Middle school and younger students will participate in blended programs of traditional instruction and Rosetta Stone Classroom, where they will also learn the culture and history of a country as well as its language.”

“Having a variety of language skills is becoming more of a necessity in a world made smaller and smaller by technological innovation,” Richardson added. “Saint James School is preparing students to not only participate in that world, but also to succeed in it.”