

New Catholic High School, Blessed Trinity wanted to add impact to its languages program by introducing stimulating ways for teachers to present classroom material, and also to improve the process of testing students' comprehension and oral skills in the target language. With the help of Multimedia Learning Systems, educators looked no further than the affordable and versatile SANAKO Lab 100.

Blessed Trinity Catholic High School

- Located in Roswell, GA
- Private (Catholic) High School, grades 9-12; opened in Fall, 2000
- Fall, 2004 enrollment approximately 875 students
- Languages offered: French, Latin, and Spanish, all including Honors and AP® courses
- Language teachers: 8
- Students are required to take two years in a specific language

Challenges in Language Teaching

Four years after opening its doors in the fall of 2000, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School in Roswell, GA was ready to expand its technical capabilities in the Foreign Language department. With more than half of the student population taking foreign language classes at any given time, teachers were looking for new and exciting ways to present class material while facilitating whole-class verbal comprehension and speaking skills. Additionally, teachers had always faced challenges when presenting audio content and when recording student responses in verbal testing. Likewise, students often faced challenges when attempting to converse with one another in the target language. Thus, the primary requirements of the new lab were the ability to effectively present audio from a variety of sources (including CDs, DVDs, computer audio, and cassette tapes), the capability to effectively record student responses and conversations, and the ability for students to interact with one another and the teacher in a more effective manner.



Students benefit from the many interactive activities in SANAKO Lab 100.

SANAKO Lab 100

- Digital language lab
- AP® testing capability
- Effective testing of verbal comprehension and speaking skills
- All students hear the same high quality audio
- Multiple easy-to-use testing tools
- Problem-free recording of student responses

Utilizing funds from the annual school auction, Blessed Trinity was ready to purchase a state-of-the-art foreign language lab. After reviewing several different options, including both hardware and software-based systems, Blessed Trinity decided to purchase a SANAKO Lab 100 system from Sanako through Multimedia Learning Systems. The Lab 100 system purchased consists of a teacher control station and student access devices, similar to a portable radio or CD player. The lab enables teachers to streamline the delivery of language content, allows students to interact with each other and their teacher, and provides new avenues for learning a foreign language.

Immediate Improvement in Content Delivery

From a teacher's perspective, the new lab allows for better content delivery and simultaneous audio testing of an entire class. In the past, two of the largest challenges for a foreign language teacher were allowing students to sample media in the language they were learning and testing students' verbal comprehension and speaking abilities in the target language.

One popular class activity in foreign language classes is listening to actual music and other recordings in the language being studied. Before the lab, teachers would have to play a CD through a normal CD player for the entire class. Given the acoustically challenging nature of a classroom, it was extremely difficult for everyone in the room to hear the recordings clearly (students in the front would either be blasted out of their desks or students in the back would not be able to hear). With the capabilities of the Lab 100, however, each student hears audio content as if they had their own personal CD player – in fact the devices at each student workstation function exactly like a portable CD player, complete with individual volume controls.



Tools for Students

- Independent control of audio playback
- Convenient bookmark function
- Telephone conversation, pair and group discussion with other students
- Ability to work independently with pre-selected recordings

At the teacher's discretion, each student can independently control the playback of audio, fast forwarding through sections, setting "bookmarks" for later review, and independently pausing their playback.

In previous years, one of the greatest challenges for a foreign language teacher has been testing a student's verbal comprehension and speaking skills. Teachers would literally have to take students one-at-a-time out into the hallway with a tape recorder. With a full class it could take days to conduct every student's test! With the Lab 100, teachers can simultaneously test every student in the lab. Additionally, a teacher can take the responses to verbal tests and transfer those responses to a CD to playback later – even at home - thus facilitating easier grading. Teachers can also conduct multiple choice or True/False quizzes and have students interact and record their answers using their audio panel.

Exciting Learning Tools for Students

Students also gain several tools in the new lab. As previously mentioned, they can (at their teacher's discretion) independently control audio file playback, including adjusting the volume, rewinding/fast forwarding, and pausing. In addition, there are several lab exercises that allow student interaction. Teachers can pair students and allow discussions with either a specific partner or a random selection. Similarly, teachers can place students into different groups and allow discussions within those groups. Students can also participate in "telephone" exercises where they "dial-in" to another student's station and converse with them in their foreign language. During all student to student activities teachers can listen to and interact with students as needed.

For more information about SANAKO Corporation visit our website at [http:// www.sanako.com](http://www.sanako.com)

High Technology from Finland

Teachers and students are just beginning to experience the benefits of the Foreign Language Lab enhanced with Sanako Lab 100. As the teachers learn new ways to augment their classroom content through the use of the lab, both students and teachers will continue to experience the benefits of the exciting new facility. One item that teachers are especially looking forward to using is the ability in Lab 100 to pre-set recordings for students so that a student can come into the lab during their lunch period and, with the push of a button, listen to a pre-selected audio file, complete with teacher-set bookmarks identifying areas in which the student may need extra practice.



Launching quality audio for students, as well as testing, control and recording of student activity have never been easier than with SANAKO Lab 100.

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