



German and Spanish Language Instruction at Enlightium Academy

Enlightium Academy is a private Christian school based in Washington state, accredited by Cognia and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Since 2003, Enlightium has served a diverse population of K-12 students in a variety of educational settings, including partner schools, hybrid models, and fully online or home-school environments. Their approach emphasizes personalized learning with strong parental involvement and academic, spiritual, and emotional support, equipping students with the skills they need to succeed in both college and their future careers. Enlightium Academy's flexibility and commitment to individual student needs make it an excellent choice for those who seek a tailored learning experience, whether they need academic challenges or require additional support.

Delivering engaging and interactive language learning

Three years ago, Enlightium Academy first contacted Robotel to inquire about the resources SmartClass could offer. Over a series of meetings, it became clear that SmartClass's curricula and instructional platform were perfectly suited to complement Enlightium's online learning model. The challenge Enlightium faced was delivering engaging, interactive language learning experiences remotely, where students could practice all four domains of language acquisition—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—while receiving the necessary feedback to grow in confidence and proficiency.

“Over the past year, SmartClass has truly transformed the way I teach and connect with my students. With learners spread across the globe in a remote setting, building meaningful connections and maintaining engagement was initially a challenge. However, SmartClass made it so much easier. The platform's focus on all four language domains, especially through its interactive speaking activities, has helped my students gain confidence in their language skills.”

German and Spanish curricula for virtual learning and increase speaking practice

Enlightium Academy has since purchased SmartClass's Spanish and German curricula, steadily increasing the number of licenses as their student enrollment grows each year. These curricula are fully integrated into Enlightium's learning model, allowing students from all over the world to participate in language courses from their homes. With SmartClass, students use the interactive features of the platform to enhance their language skills, especially through speaking activities, where they can build confidence and feel comfortable practicing without worrying about mistakes. The ability to tailor lessons with additional grammar and cultural components has further enriched the students' learning experience.

What sets SmartClass apart

According to Kirsten Kosoff, Assistant Principal and Faculty Mentor at Enlightium, SmartClass stood out for two key reasons:

1 Focus on all four language domains, especially speaking

The platform's question-and-answer activities are based on real-life scenarios, which help students overcome their hesitation to speak. This method has built student confidence over time, allowing them to comfortably use the language without fear of judgment. The ability to practice speaking in a safe, supportive environment has been a critical factor in student progress.

2 Flexibility in curriculum customization

Enlightium has been able to integrate additional grammar and cultural lessons into the SmartClass platform, allowing them to tailor the learning experience to the specific needs of their students. This flexibility in individualizing the curriculum has been instrumental in meeting diverse learning goals.



Impact on Language Learning

SmartClass has significantly enhanced student engagement and confidence at Enlightium Academy. The platform's audio and video capabilities have allowed for more personal interaction between students and teachers, despite the remote nature of the instruction. By using audio feedback and creative video projects, students feel more connected and motivated. They not only learn the language but also have fun doing so, producing engaging video content as part of their coursework. Kirsten notes that the platform has made remote language learning more interactive, personal, and rewarding for both teachers and students.

Using the SmartClass Teaching Platform for Academic Language



Enlightium Academy is considering expanding its use of SmartClass to support intermediate English learners, potentially incorporating the instructional teaching platform to deliver academic language for courses beyond World Languages. Additionally, they are exploring the possibility of offering the Global Seal of Biliteracy, a program that recognizes high levels of proficiency in two or more languages, as a goal for both their World Language students and English learners. The progress students have made in language proficiency through SmartClass suggests that they are well on their way to achieving this.



Enhancing Remote Education in the Future

Enlightium Academy's success story with SmartClass is a powerful example of how innovative language-learning technology can enhance remote education. Their experience demonstrates how a well-designed platform can build student confidence, foster engagement, and create meaningful connections, even when students and teachers are physically distant. One of the most crucial elements SmartClass addresses is the challenge of building student-teacher rapport, which is often lacking in virtual settings. By providing interactive, personalized learning experiences, SmartClass helps educators establish rapport with their students, fostering a supportive and connected environment that is essential for effective learning. For institutions looking to offer flexible, interactive, and personalized language instruction, Enlightium's journey with SmartClass showcases the potential for significant academic and personal growth in students.