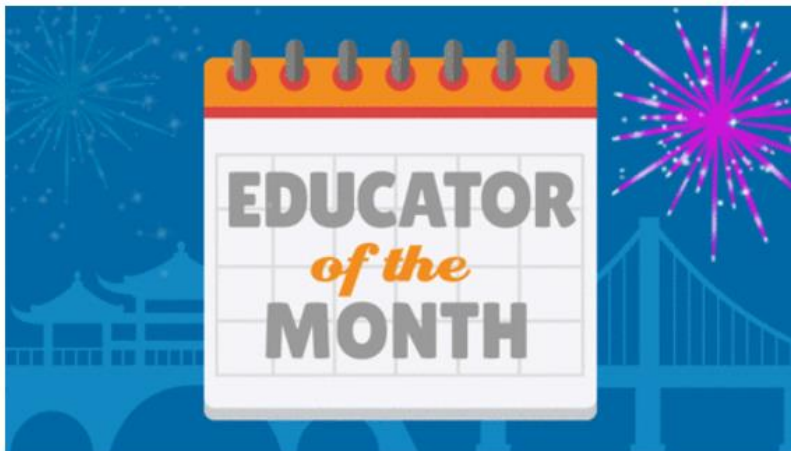




Meet Haley from Putnam County R-1 School District!

Points earned after completion:

25



We are excited to introduce December's Educator of the Month!

This month, we are thrilled to highlight **Haley from Putnam County R-1 School District in Missouri**. Haley has had incredible success using Rosetta Stone with her students, and we're excited to share some of her thoughts and advice below :)

~ Meet Haley ~





Please tell us a little bit about your teaching career!

I have been instructing our students here at Putnam County since the fall of 2017. I was hired to be the Middle and High School Library and Media Manager and Webmaster for our school district. After our Spanish teacher retired, it was decided that we were going to be implementing Rosetta Stone for foreign language in grades 9-12 for a few hours a day and I would be the one instructing those classes as well. I was excited. I really enjoyed learning and speaking Spanish in this very high school when I was a student here.

I took Spanish in college as well, but I remember having to listen to cassette tapes in college to practice listening to native speakers. Rosetta Stone is so much more fun and advanced than what I had 20 years ago.

You have been so successful using Rosetta Stone! Can you share how you have achieved this success?

I think with any program, you have to get to know it by using it yourself and utilizing all the resources to fully gain all the knowledge available and see how it will work for your students. We had enough licenses that I was able to use one as well and experience Rosetta Stone as a student. I worked on each unit and module like the students and even did a live tutoring session so I would know how to tell our students what to expect.



At Putnam, we typically go through the Core Lesson and modules of that Unit and Lesson, then I have the students do the worksheets. We review the worksheets together in class and they correct those and use them as study guides to prepare for their quizzes. We have what we call Fun Fridays on most Fridays. On Fun Fridays, we will divide into teams and play Quizlet Live (kind of like Jeopardy) or we will play Pictionary on the dry erase board. During Spanish Pictionary, students will draw a few lines to indicate how many words are in the sentence, then they have 1 minute to draw enough pictures to have their teammates guess what the sentence is in Spanish. I usually give out tokens to our coffee bar or treats as prizes for our winners. It definitely helps them practice speaking and writing while having fun.

I let them know at the beginning of the year that Live Tutoring can make or break a grade in this class so they take it seriously. More importantly, I let them know that practicing listening and speaking with a native speaker is the best kind of practice they will have. They are each expected to complete 2 live tutoring sessions per Unit and they are worth 50 points each. We complete 8 in a school year. We have a Google Sheet where students in each class are assigned to a live tutoring group and tentative schedule so they can plan the best time to complete their live tutoring before the due date. Our Rosetta Stone representative, Katie LaBranche, is always so good about adding more sessions when we need them. Our students enjoy speaking with the live tutors and can tell when other students haven't practiced much. It builds their confidence knowing that they know how to speak what they have been studying.



In our Spanish classes, we also implement FlipGrid on occasion. For one assignment, I had students write out a conversation they would have when meeting someone new. They recorded their conversations on FlipGrid to share with their classmates. They had to use greetings, tell about where they are from, where they live, if they have pets, tell about their family, their favorite things to do, and favorite foods. We also use the activity guide from the Spanish resource manual from Rosetta Stone Support. Our students really enjoy interactive speaking and writing activities the most. It gives them real-life practice and makes them think about how to conjugate their verbs correctly and engage in Spanish conversation they have learned from Rosetta Stone.

Do you have one piece of advice you would give other teachers who are using Rosetta Stone for the first time?

If I had one piece of advice for other teachers, it would be to experience Rosetta Stone as a student. Make learning fun. Don't just give your students the username and password and turn them loose. Set small daily goals for them to achieve. Interact after each lesson. Have your students speak and write as much as possible with the vocabulary they have learned. Take full advantage of the live tutoring sessions and encourage them to practice speaking the language they are learning in class and out of class as much as possible. Encourage your students to use the extended learning portion of Rosetta as well. Maybe once their assignments are done, let them have a set amount of time to play the games on extended learning or practice reading in their new language.



Also, explain how learning their new language will benefit them in the future. There were so many times in my former career in sales where my Spanish speaking skills came in handy. Your students need to know why or the how doesn't always matter. Open their eyes to all the places they could go in the world where they could use their new language. We have several students who are native speakers and on occasion we borrow them on Fun Friday so our students can practice speaking with them as well.

Have fun! Your students will think what you think. So set your expectations from the beginning that you are all going to have fun learning and practicing speaking together. We typically try to plan a field trip for the end of the year where we can either experience culture with music, dance, art, or food and also practice our Spanish. The students look forward to fun activities like that. Also, know that Rosetta Stone support is always there to help, but they can't help if they don't know there's a problem.