

Philosophy of Foreign Language

It is important for our students to study a foreign language because it helps them in fulfilling our Lord's command to "go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19). Because our students are living in an increasingly global world, foreign language study enables them to participate in future education and employment that may require a basic understanding of a world language. In addition, study of foreign languages increases our appreciation for God's gift of language and communication because through language the Gospel is revealed. (Acts 2: 5 – 9)

Good Shepherd Lutheran School offers the classroom edition of the Rosetta Stone foreign language program to all students in 5th through 8th grade. Rosetta Stone is an award-winning language learning program that uses dynamic immersion to get students speaking, reading, writing, and understanding new languages. The program does not use direct translation, but instead uses images and sounds to get students to associate words with their actual meaning. In this way, using Rosetta Stone encourages students to learn languages the same way they learned their first language, through immersion.

The classroom edition of Rosetta allows teachers to track the progress of each student and customize curricula to focus lessons on different aspects of language learning including speech, listening, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary. In addition, students can work at their own pace and even at home, because the program is available online.

Good Shepherd students are able to select from 3 different languages, including Spanish, French, and German.