

Language labs have been an integral part of foreign language teaching at Miramonte High School for many years. However, Latin teachers were pleased and surprised to find that SANAKO Lab 100 could help them turn a “dead” language into a living, breathing form of oral communication for their students.

Miramonte High School

- Established in 1955
- Student population 1,400
- 98 % of graduates continue to college
- Over 60% of students study a foreign language
- Rapid increase in enrolment in Latin courses

Miramonte High School – A Top California Public School

Miramonte High School is located in the quiet suburb of Orinda, California, just across the bay from San Francisco. The school is consistently ranked one of the top public high schools in the State. The student population at Miramonte is approximately 1,400 with more than two thirds of the students enrolled in at least one World Language class. Miramonte is a very demanding school with high expectations for both its students and staff. More than 95% of all Miramonte students continue on to college with many applying to some of the most prestigious universities in the country. In order to better serve the students at Miramonte, the faculty strives to be at the forefront of technology use. In addition to our SANAKO Lab 100 language lab, the school has four computer labs and two mobile laptop systems. The faculty at Miramonte High School is always looking for new ways to use their technological resources to improve education.

SANAKO Lab 100

- Pair discussion, listening comprehension and Q&A activities develop oral skills
- Immediate feedback for students
- Student self-monitoring and –correction with record and playback features
- Individual guidance and support for students from teacher

The World Language Department offers Spanish and French, and it also has a vibrant and growing Latin program. In the last three years, the number of students enrolled in Latin has increased 67%. Language labs have been an integral part of language learning at Miramonte for many years and, as is often the case in many high schools, language lab usage has been primarily dominated by the Spanish and French teachers.

Bringing a “Dead” Language to Life

There appears to be a common opinion shared amongst many foreign language teachers that Latin is not a “living” language and therefore does not require time in the language lab. We have found this to be a misconception. There are many valuable activities that Latin students can engage in while using our Sanako language lab. With the opportunity to use the language lab, our Latin students are actively using the Latin language and breathe new life into it.



SANAKO Lab 100 allows teachers to provide students with immediate and private feedback.



Students at Miramonte have found that they can breathe new life into Latin using SANAKO Lab 100.



Students Speak Out

“In terms of learning a language, hearing the words spoken in context is a better way to get an understanding of the language than just reading in a textbook.”

“I think speaking to another person helped improve my Latin. Furthermore, listening to a story and then answering questions orally really helped.”

“Doing quizzes when there is no paper is really useful because it sharpens your mind and you really have to focus on what the teacher is saying.”

“It was fun having to hear Latin spoken to me and then to be asked questions about it really gave me a whole new way of learning Latin.”

A Variety of Activities

There are several activities that the Latin teacher can do in the language lab to improve their students’ Latin education. Using the Pair Discussion Activity in the Sanko Lab 100, students can engage in Latin dialogues with one another. In addition to interacting with each other in Latin, the students can also participate in teacher-directed question and answer sessions as well as listening comprehension activities. With the Quiz Activity the teacher and the students are able to get immediate feedback. The students are also able to record and playback their efforts at speaking in Latin. With all the possibilities in Lab 100, each trip to the lab can provide the students with a fun and unique learning experience.

The Results

From the teacher’s perspective, working with Latin students in the Sanako lab is a dream. The teacher can do all the activities he or she normally does in the classroom and so much more. The teacher can focus on listening to all his or her students speak Latin and then provide each student with quick, immediate and private feedback from the teacher desk. Most importantly, the students are more engaged in the learning experience and are excited to be in the language lab. Here are just a few comments from Latin students on what they thought about using the Sanako Lab:

“The language lab was really fun. I liked being able to interact with other people in the class and having conversations with them. I also like the small quizzes a lot, they were great.”

“Doing Latin in an interactive manner makes it easier to understand.”

Our SANAKO language lab is not only a fun way to spend a class period but it’s also a very beneficial and efficient way to use instructional time teaching Latin.



Students are exposed to many different stimulating activities in SANAKO Lab 100.

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

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