

Owego Apalachin

BUDGET VOTE 2009-10

Election Day is Tuesday, May 19

Budget includes foreign language software at the elementary schools

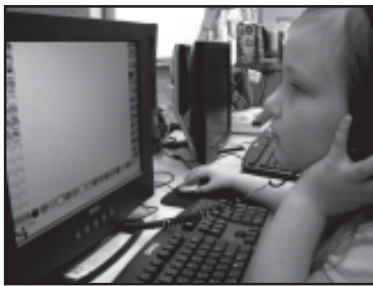
One program the OA district intends to add through the 2009-10 budget is *Rosetta Stone* Spanish language software, which will be placed in both of the district's elementary schools. To start, students' exposure to the *Rosetta Stone* program will be through an after-school enrichment program.

Getting children started early with second language skills gives them a head start to succeed in a global economy, according to the Web site www.RosettaStone.com. Research has shown that once a second language has been acquired, it is easier to learn a third or fourth language.

Developing essential language skills leads to success in other subject areas as well.

Rosetta Stone is built on a series of common, easily recognizable images found in everyday situations, which enables young children immediately to

immerse themselves into the program and progress quickly, according to the site. With *Rosetta Stone*, students can work independently and teachers can concentrate on the personal instruction and interactive classroom activities that promote fluency.



is to install this excellent foreign language learning software on every computer in both of our elementary schools," said Bernie Dolan, OA associate superintendent.

"Students not only learn a different language, but they learn how languages work," said Laurie McKeveny, OES principal. "We're excited about this opportunity and believe it will enrich our curriculum and opportunities for our children."

"We're looking forward to this software being installed at AES," said Joe DiCosimo, the school's principal. "While an across-the-board elementary foreign language curriculum was a budget cut a few years ago, the addition of *Rosetta Stone* allows students to be exposed to the Spanish language."

DiCosimo went so far as to create his own language when describing *Rosetta Stone*, joking that it may reach some students "in a Playstation-y way," while the software would also bring the topic of early-age language learning back to the forefront in the OA district.