

INTERACTIVE LEARNING IN THE

DIGITAL LANGUAGE LABORATORY (DiLL)



Wikis, blogs, podcasts, and interactive websites have made learning a foreign language less memorization and more interactive learning. And while no one yet has been able to develop a method that allows a student learning a foreign language to bypass the practice time needed to sound like a native, the challenge of pronouncing an unfamiliar word has been eased with Upper School's new **Digital Language Laboratory (DiLL)**. Ramaz is one of a very few institutions using this system developed at Northwestern University.

DiLL allows students to slow down the audio while maintaining the original pitch, allowing for better understanding of unfamiliar sounds. Instructors use a centralized control panel to hear and correct students as they speak. From one screen, an instructor can see and/or hear what each student is working on in real-time, communicate either with the entire class or selectively with individual

students, reassign lessons, and pair or group students in conversation.

"The classes love to work with **DiLL**," noted Dr. Joan Warshall, Foreign Language Chair for the Middle and Upper Schools. "It enables students to hear many different accents and enables me to introduce more interesting cultural material into the lesson format."



One unexpected bonus of the new system was discovered by the school's Director of Music Technology, Rami Yadid: **DiLL** can be used in the music composition classes. With each student working on a small keyboard and wearing headphone to hear the music via the computers (and **DiLL**), they can work in pairs, or singly, without disturbing others in the class.