



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Sony Digital Language Labs Facilitate ACTFL Proficiency Exams for Students at Glastonbury CT Public Schools**

North Branford, CT, May 10, 2011—Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) and Level 6 students of Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian at Glastonbury HS in CT recently had the opportunity to take two nationally recognized language exams: the Assessment for Performance and Proficiency of Languages (AAPPL) and the Oral Proficiency Interview Computerized (OPIc) developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The testing and assessment of over 120 students was facilitated in the school's Sony digital language labs provided and supported by Chester Technical Services, the local reseller for SANS Inc., Software and Network Solutions.

ACTFL is the national membership organization of foreign language professionals, providing vision, leadership and support for quality language teaching and testing, as well as providing support to those who instruct and assess languages. The proficiency testing at Glastonbury is part of the ACTFL Assessment for Performance and Proficiency of Languages (AAPPL) project funded through the Department of Education - International Research and Studies. ACTFL is creating and prototyping tests based on the AAPPL Framework to gather information and feedback from teachers and students on the test content, format, and delivery.

This particular study is focused on Interpersonal Listening/Speaking skills where students participated in a virtual video chat with someone in a country where their foreign language spoken. According to Rita Oleksak, Director of Foreign Languages/ELL, Glastonbury Public Schools, "Integration of the Sony language lab instructional technology at the Glastonbury Middle and High Schools, helps our students develop critical second-language skills. They get more time to speak and communicate their ideas than if working only in a traditional classroom setting. Our teachers are able to easily pair or group students for conversational practice and monitor and assess real-time." She added, "Students are comfortable in this environment and more open to communicating in the target language. I believe that we will see this in the exam results."

Glastonbury students also have the opportunity for their scores to be made available as part of the individual data card that is sent out to colleges and universities. Since these assessments are nationally recognized, colleges and universities will be able to use these results to more appropriately place Glastonbury students in their language courses.

**About SANS Inc.:**

SANS Inc., Software and Network Solutions, is the developer and exclusive worldwide licensor of Sony Language Learning Software. This includes the widely used technology suite comprised of the Sony Virtuoso™ and Soloist® digital language lab software. This technology is the instructional choice of hundreds of discerning educational and government language programs in the U.S. and around the world. More at: [www.sansinc.com](http://www.sansinc.com) or [info@sansinc.com](mailto:info@sansinc.com).

**About Glastonbury CT Public Schools Foreign Language Department:**

The Glastonbury Public Schools Foreign Language Department is dedicated to providing high-quality language learning experiences for its students in an articulated sequence of instruction. We believe that this broad exposure to a wide variety of languages allows students to develop a deep understanding and appreciation of other cultures as well as their own, and prepares them to communicate and participate successfully as informed citizens in a global society.

More at: [www.glastonburyus.org/curriculum/foreignlanguage](http://www.glastonburyus.org/curriculum/foreignlanguage) or [oleksakr@glastonburyus.org](mailto:oleksakr@glastonburyus.org).

**About ACTFL:**

More than 12,000 foreign language teachers and administrators throughout the U.S. and the world belong to ACTFL. The association provides advocacy leadership, publishes a journal, Foreign Language Annals, and a magazine, The Language Educator, and spearheads the profession's Discover Languages public awareness campaign to call attention to the importance of language learning. Each year, ACTFL convenes the country's largest conference and exposition serving the language education profession, offering more than 600 sessions and workshops and featuring more than 300 exhibits. ACTFL is also well-known for the development of the ACTFL Proficiency Scale ® and the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview ® or OPI®, and WPT® (written), OPIc® (computer-based) proficiency tests in more than 75 languages. ACTFL tests are used by government, corporate and academia clients to verify the language capabilities of personnel in military, diplomatic, corporate, and academic settings worldwide.

More at: [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org)

**SANS Inc. Software and Network Solutions  
10 White Wood Lane  
North Branford, CT 06471**

*Virtuoso and Soloist are trademarks of Sony Electronics Inc. Sony Virtuoso and Soloist software incorporate SANS and Sony Technology. AP is a registered trademark of the College Board.*

###