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# Orange Unified School District Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program Orientation

Fletcher School – December 4, 2018

# Hello! 你好 Nǐ hǎo

- OUSD's Mandarin Dual Language Immersion program offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English and Mandarin.
- Video Link:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AmKgXvEc1gLarB05cuzmBgX8qOH-421o/view?ts=5bf31d00>



# Why Immersion?

- There is no other type of instruction, short of living in a second-language environment, that is as successful as a dual immersion program to help students attain high levels of second language proficiency and well-developed cultural skills. The cognitive, socio-cultural, and economic benefits are great. Young children especially thrive in this type of instructional environment.

*"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."* ~Ludwig Wittgenstein

# Proven Benefits

- **Second Language Skills**

OUSD's Mandarin dual immersion students are on a pathway to read, write, speak and listen in Chinese at a high intermediate proficiency level by the ninth grade when they take Advanced Placement Chinese and the Chinese AP test.

- **Improved Performance on Standardized Tests**

Immersion students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests in English and math that are all **administered in English**.

- **Enhanced Cognitive Skills**

Immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills as well as an enhanced understanding of their primary language. Current research shows that being bilingual boosts brainpower.

# Proven Benefits

*"What really counts for multinational businesses is employees' ability to effectively communicate in a variety of cultures and contexts. Bilingual employees are valuable, not only for their language skills, but also for their ability to interact effectively with people around the world in either their first or second language."*

## ○ Increased Cultural Sensitivity

Immersion students develop and awareness and appreciation towards other cultures. A survey of top international business executives done by the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon in 2007 showed that multinational businesses are looking for potential high-level employees with cultural sensitivities and the skill to perform in a foreign environment.

## ○ Long Term Benefits

Immersion students are better prepared for the **global community and job markets** where a second language is an asset. China has both the world's quickest growing economy and the largest population. More people speak Mandarin Chinese than any other language on the earth. It is difficult to see an American future isolated from Chinese influence. Why not give our children an increased opportunity to compete in this drastically evolving economic and cultural landscape?

# Program Objectives

- Maximize students' second language proficiency.
- Provide a rich academic environment in both first and second languages.
- Develop students' abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings.
- Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community.

# What to Expect in a Dual Immersion Program

- Dual Immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language; when their brains are hard-wired for language acquisition. Children at this age are adept at picking up language in meaningful contexts.
- In class, the Chinese-speaking teacher speaks only in Chinese and communicates using a wide range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, pantomime, drama, etc.
- Students will be encouraged to speak only in Mandarin during Mandarin Instruction time. It is astounding how quickly your children become comfortable and competent Chinese speakers.



# OUSD Immersion Model

- From K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 50% of a student's day is spent in Chinese instruction with their highly qualified Mandarin-speaking teacher and the other 50% is spent with their English-speaking teacher.
- In grades K-1 Mandarin Language Arts with integrated Social Studies and Science, as well as Math are delivered by the Mandarin teacher, while the English teacher concentrates on developing the building blocks for strong English language skills and literacy.
- In grades 2-6 Math Instruction is delivered in English, with a 30 minute preview/review in Mandarin to support concepts and vocabulary. To ensure that the students understand the core content subjects, a strong collaborative effort exists between the two teachers to reinforce the students' learning.



# OUSD Immersion Model

- The curriculum model shifts in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades as a greater sharing of content area responsibility is developed between the two teachers. There is an increased concentration on Chinese literacy during the Mandarin half-day to help improve the students' proficiency.
- Students entering immersion programs in K or 1<sup>st</sup> grade will become part of an immersion strand of study that culminates in Advanced Placement Chinese, and the AP Chinese test by the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. College-level coursework will be offered from grades 10-12 as students work to achieve advanced level proficiency on graduation from high school.
- Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) cluster model is currently being implemented at Fletcher. GATE eligibility will be based on existing District criteria.

# Who Can Participate

- For the 2018-2019 school year, the OUSD Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications will be open to all students entering **Kindergarten** beginning January 15, 2019. The program has expanded to the middle school level, with courses in Mandarin Language Arts (Chinese 2) and World History in Mandarin.

# How to Enroll My Child

**Students are enrolled based on a lottery system, only after ALL required paperwork is completed.**

Lottery criteria are as follows:

1. Fletcher attendance area
2. Siblings of current MIP students
3. OUSD attendance area
4. Inter-district transfers

# Parent Responsibilities

- Commit to long-term participation in the immersion program
- Develop an understanding of immersion education
- Read with your child (in English) 20-30 min. daily
- Encourage the use of Chinese outside of school (SEE TIPS AND TRICKS)\*
- Provide community support and, when possible, volunteer
- Enjoy the challenges; celebrate the results
- Learn as much of the language as you can!

# Tips and Tricks

## What Non-Chinese Speaking Families can do to Support Chinese Learning (*Chinese American International School, San Francisco*)

- Recognize that learning a second language is a big commitment for the child and family, knowing that for a period the child will likely struggle in either or both languages.
- Show great interest in your child's learning, routinely checking in with your child, ask him/her to read/say/show you something they have learned. Encourage your child to be the “teacher” and give you lessons about what words he/she learned that day.
- Closely communicate with your child's teachers. It's good practice to get updates about his/her current learning progress above and beyond parent-teacher conferences.
- Make homework a part of daily life. It's important to remember that time spent reinforcing what your child learns in school each day at home will help make it “sticky” for your child.

# Tips and Tricks Continued

- Get tips from the teachers for what language games you can play with your kids at home, or what tools to use to enhance learning at home. Our teachers are a wealth of knowledge and can give you advice regarding tapes, CDs, videos, websites and more.
- Invite your child's classmate or friends over to work on homework or assignments together. Create a learning buddy system. It can also develop a healthy social life.
- Encourage your child to take advantage of every speaking opportunity in Mandarin that he/she can. For example, talking with merchants in stores who speak Mandarin, Chinese restaurants, etc.
- Attend/celebrate Chinese cultural events during the weekend to arouse children's interest towards Chinese culture. There are many cultural events that happen in our own backyard.
- Babysitters. Planning a date night or an adult only weekend getaway? Consider hiring a Mandarin speaking babysitter who will help reinforce vocabulary and might even be able to help with homework.

# MIP Parent Tours

- Fletcher will be providing tours of the MIP Program for parents Friday, December 7, 2018 and Wednesday, January 9, 2019 from 8:30am-9:30am.
- Classroom visits are during Mandarin Instruction
- First hand look at students speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin
- Principal will guide tour and lead a brief information session afterwards





Thank you! 谢谢 Xièxiè

*"A different language is a different vision of life." ~[Federico Fellini](#)*