



Greenwich Public Schools Curriculum Overview

Course Name: Honors Mandarin 4

Personalized learning is achieved through standards-based, rigorous and relevant curriculum that is aligned to digital tools and resources.

Note: Teachers retain professional discretion in how the learning is presented based on the needs and interests of their students.

Course Description: (from COSG)

In this course students will continue to expand the grammar and vocabulary of the previous levels of study. Emphasis continues to be on free expression, both oral and written. Reading will include authentic short stories, notes, messages, newspaper and magazine articles, and will serve to reinforce basic concepts and knowledge about the Chinese culture. The curriculum is focused on listening, speaking, reading and writing at the intermediate/pre-advanced ACTFL proficiency level. Throughout the year, students will understand and interpret more complex spoken and written language through projects and presentations; students will learn about Chinese cultural products, practices and perspectives such as travel, customs, festivals and Chinese education; students will find and engage in the Chinese language outside of the school environment and show evidence of building a life-long skill for their own personal enrichment.

Unit Guide: (List of Major Units)

- Unit 1: Media and Technology
- Unit 2: Holiday and celebrations
- Unit 3: Environment
- Unit 4: Health
- Unit 5: History and culture
- Unit 6: Travel and geography

Enduring Understandings

- Paper-making (造纸: zàozhǐ), the compass (指南针: zhǐnánzhēn), gunpowder (火药: huǒyào)
- There are several different kinds of traditional Chinese markets where you can shop, play games, eat, drink and have fun
- Rather than using the phrases 你多大? (nǐ duō dà) or 你几岁? (nǐ jǐ suì), you can also find out someone's age by asking for someone's Chinese Zodiac sign
- The most important holiday of the Chinese calendar is Chinese New Year
- As with all cultures, China has its own creation myths
- Chinese culture has a deep-seated reverence for nature
- China has been facing significant environmental challenges, given the large

- population and booming industrial economy
- Traditional Chinese Medicine is an ancient medicinal practice that is still used today as an alternative to Western medicine
- "Nutritional therapy" (食疗: shíliáo), also known as "food therapy," is a medicinal branch of Traditional Chinese Medicine where what you eat is a big part of treating illness
- According to food therapy beliefs, some food items have heating effects and others have cooling effects; this is based on the concept of "yin" and "yang" (阴阳 : yīnyáng)
- Peking Opera (京剧: jīngù) is a traditional genre of stage performance involving singing, spectacular costumes, dramatic stories, and thrilling martial arts
- Confucianism (儒家: Rújiā), Daoism (道家: Dàojiā), and Buddhism (佛教: Fójiào), are three of the most important religious and social philosophies in China
- There are many interesting historical sites in China. Among them, the Terracotta Warriors (兵马俑: Bīngmǎyǒng) and the Great Wall (长城: Chángchéng) are often listed among the top wonders of the world

Performance Tasks: (Including Capstone Assured Experiences)

1. Complete a variety of intense projects and presentations in which they create artifacts based on their personal interests to show their understanding of modern technology in China, online shopping, Chinese celebrations, getting to know China, making vacation plans, Chinese medicine, Peking opera and solving global challenges
2. Engage in classroom discussions and debates in which students take and defend positions relative to:
 - a. Online activities
 - b. Online shopping
 - c. Latest technologies
 - d. Birthday celebrations and preparations
 - e. Environmental protection
 - f. Dietary health
 - g. Western and traditional Chinese medical practices
 - h. Peking opera
 - i. Chinese culture, history and literature
 - j. China's famous cultural and geographic features
 - k. word nuance/connotation
3. Role play situations involving:
 - a. Knowing China
 - b. Summer vacation
 - c. Travel plans
 - d. Performances
 - e. Science and technology

- f. Global challenges
 - g. Natural disaster
 - h. Dietary and lifestyle
 - i. Environmental protection
 - j. Health
 - k. Chinese birthday and festival celebrations
 - l. grammatical structures
4. Teacher-generated quizzes and unit assessments to show mastery

Standards

[World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages](#)

[WL Readiness Standards Alignment with Common Core Standards](#)

Resources

1. **Discovering Chinese Pro 1 - Textbook and workbook**
2. [Resources for Pinyin](#)
3. **Far East - Chinese for youth level 1 - Textbook and workbook**
4. **Search for Little Fox Chinese video series**