



# WORLD LANGUAGE AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

# MANDARIN

## Why Mandarin?

Unique possibilities exist for those who learn Mandarin, as it is the most spoken language in the world; Mandarin is the language of over 1.2 billion people. St. Joseph's Academy has had numerous scholarship recipients of the US government-sponsored NSLI-Y program for Mandarin, and 95% of SJA Mandarin students decide to take all four years of coursework. Many continue their language learning at university, and some students even change career paths to seek Mandarin-based opportunities.

The thought of learning Mandarin can be scary simply because most people don't know much about it. Every language has its challenges and pleasures, and every language requires dedication and consistent hard work. In Mandarin, the writing system is not alphabet-based, but there are no verb conjugations, no verb tenses, no noun/adjective or gender/number agreement, and no plural nouns. There are also over 5,000 years of culture to explore and enjoy!

At SJA, Ms. Hughes breaks information down so it can be easily understood, including the complex writing system. Writing characters (the basics begin in level II) is an ancient art form that will impress even your most academic friends! With Mandarin, both temporal lobes of the brain are used (alphabet languages only use the left lobe). The unique tonal sounds of the spoken language employ areas of the brain not used in English. Characters are written in all four directions activating neural pathways in working, thinking, and spatial memory. Math skills also play a part in writing, as it involves counting, grouping, ordering, and identifying similarities and differences.



*For more information regarding the SJA Mandarin program, please contact:*



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SJA is a member of the National Mandarin Chinese Honor Society, and Mandarin III and IV are honors courses. We offer trips to Taiwan and Beijing, China. Be courageous, set yourself apart, and sign up today!

## *Mandarin Courses Offered at SJA:*

- *Mandarin I: Mandarin and Chinese Multiculturalism*
- *Mandarin II: Mandarin and Chinese Multiculturalism*
- *Honors Mandarin III*
- *Honors Mandarin IV*