

Why Chinese?

Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world. The Mandarin dialect is the official language of China and Taiwan, and is widely spoken in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Mongolia. According to the most recent US census, Chinese is actually the third most spoken language in the United States.

China is the heir to the traditions of one of the world's richest and most ancient cultures and is the world's second largest economy. According to a Bloomberg study of the most important languages for international business, Mandarin Chinese ranks first after English. China's economic, political and cultural impact in the next few years will have a significant impact on the world. As business relationships deepen between Delaware and China, having skills to communicate in Mandarin will be an invaluable economic advantage.

"The opportunity to learn a world language through immersion study, especially starting at a young age, gives our students an early advantage. World language capacity will be critical for their success after high school."

MARK MURPHY
Delaware Secretary of Education

Parent Responsibilities

- Commit to long-term participation in the immersion program so that your child can develop advanced-level language skills
- Develop an understanding of immersion education
- Read with your child in English 2030 minutes daily
- Encourage the use of Chinese outside of school
- Encourage community support
- Enjoy the challenges and celebrate the results

How to Enroll

For information about enrolling your child in one of the Delaware World Language Immersion Programs in Chinese, contact a participating school. Each school's information is located on the back of this brochure.



Participating Delaware Chinese Immersion Schools

CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten Program (Beginning 2012)
J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center

Grades 1-5 (Beginning 2013)
W.B. Simpson Elementary School
Allen Frear Elementary School

Middle Schools (Beginning 2018)
Fred Fifer Middle School
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School

High School (Beginning 2021)
Caesar Rodney High School

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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"In today's educational landscape, it is imperative for Delaware students to have the skills necessary to compete in a global economy. Learning a second language will offer our children an advantage in this increasingly competitive world."

GOV. JACK MARKELL
Governor of the State of Delaware

Providing Students With A World Of Advantages



CHINESE IMMERSION PROGRAM

DELAWARE WORLD LANGUAGE IMMERSION

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Why Immersion?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of immersion education to help students attain high levels of world language proficiency. No other type of instruction, short of living in a non-English-speaking environment, is as successful. Young children especially thrive in this type of learning environment where learning a new language comes as naturally as learning their first one. World language immersion programs are also the least expensive way for schools and districts to deliver high quality world language learning opportunities to their students.

Who Can Participate?

Delaware World Language Immersion Programs are open to all Delaware students of varying backgrounds and abilities. Applications are open to all students enrolling in Kindergarten at one of the participating Delaware elementary schools. Parents who feel that their child may have significant communication delays in their first language should seriously weigh the pros and cons of enrolling their child in an immersion program.

"Language learning is about real-world communication; it's about jobs. What businesses really need from people they hire is not only advanced language skills but an ability to communicate culturally—being appreciative of cultural differences."

DR. GREGORY FULKERSON
World Languages and International Education

Program Objectives

- Maximize students' proficiency in a world language in order for them to develop advanced-level language skills in secondary school
- Provide a rich academic environment in both the English and Chinese-language classrooms
- Develop students' abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
- Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community

Proven Advantages

WORLD LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Students achieve high levels of world language proficiency in the immersion language.

IMPROVED TEST PERFORMANCE

Research shows that immersion students perform well as or better than their non-immersion peers on standardized tests of English and mathematics, even when these assessments are delivered in English.

ENHANCED COGNITIVE SKILLS

Immersion students develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills, as well as an enhanced understanding of their first language.

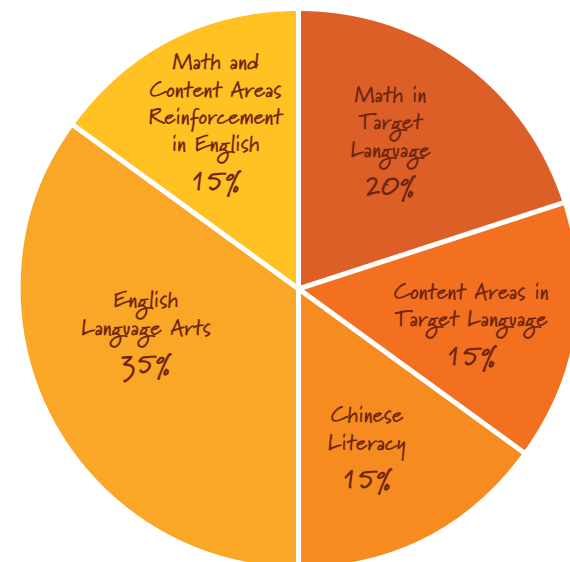
INCREASED CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Immersion students are much more aware of and show a more positive attitude towards different cultures and an appreciation of people who have different cultural perspectives and practices.

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where world language skills provide them with an economic advantage.

Instructional Time: Grades K-3



"World languages are fundamental resources. If you speak well, read well, write well, the more opportunities you have in your life economically."

DR. TARA FORTUNE
Center for Advanced Language Acquisition
University of Minnesota

What to Expect

World Language Immersion Programs offer a robust bilingual experience for young learners at the point in their cognitive development that is perfect for the acquisition of a new language. Students benefit from the instruction of two highly qualified classroom teachers -- one who teaches them for half of the day in English and the other for half of the day in Chinese. The English-speaking teacher teaches English Language Arts as well as some other elements of the Delaware Recommended Curriculum (science, social studies, mathematics, etc.)

The Chinese-speaking teacher teaches Chinese Language Arts, mathematics, science and portions of the social studies curriculum.

World Language Immersion students follow the same standards-based curriculum in all content areas that a non-immersion students would follow in any other Delaware elementary classroom.

During the instructional day, the Chinese-language teacher speaks only in Mandarin Spanish and communicates using a range of engaging strategies, including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions pantomime, drama, etc. Young learners are adept at acquiring language in meaningful contexts. After a brief period at the beginning of the year, students will also only speak in Mandarin during the Spanish-language half of the day.

Instruction Continues

All Districts with Elementary World Language Immersion Programs have identified a continuously K12 Immersion pathway for students to continuous build toward advanced-level language proficiency.

In the middle school, students will have a hybrid, online world language learning experience with Spanish-speaking peers. In high school, immersion students will be able to take the AP Spanish course in 9th grade and then participate in dual-enrollment or dual credit courses with local universities.