

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
MANDARIN IMMERSION PROGRAM
UPDATED: 01/24/2024

ENROLLMENT:

HOW DO I ENROLL MY CHILD INTO THE PROGRAM?

You need to complete the District Enrollment via the [Online Registration Portal](#) and submit a Mandarin Immersion application form. The Mandarin application will be posted on February 7th on the district website. You will need to provide the Application # from your District Enrollment on the Mandarin Immersion application form.

WE LIVE OUT OF DISTRICT. HOW DO I ENROLL MY CHILD?

Fill out a Mandarin Immersion application form. Submit the application to Christy Boyd at cboyd@busd.net in the Education Services Department.

WILL THERE BE A PLACEMENT TEST? WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TEST?

Yes, there will be a placement test for all grades. You will be contacted by a Cherrywood teacher to make an assessment appointment. Potential 1st through 7th grade students will be assessed before they get a confirmed seat in the program. Kindergarten students will be assessed before school starts at the end of July or beginning of August. The assessment will assess your child's Mandarin reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills. Our goal is to know what Mandarin language skills your child has to ensure they have the best chance to be successful in the program. **Kindergarten students are NOT expected to have any Mandarin language skills.**

DO I ENROLL MY CHILD WITH THEIR HOME SCHOOL BEFORE I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Yes, all BUSD students enroll with their resident/home school. Once you have completed the online registration, please provide us with your application number on your Mandarin Immersion application form.

MY CHILD IS CURRENTLY IN TK, HOW DO I APPLY?

You will **ONLY** need to fill out the Mandarin Immersion application form. Please put your child's Student ID on the application form.

WHAT IF WE MOVE OUT OF DISTRICT DURING THE PROGRAM? WILL WE LOSE OUR SPOT?

If you move out of the district while in the program, you will need to be released by your new resident district via an Inter District Transfer Form. If you move out of the area and leave the program, you will lose your spot in the program once you unenroll.

IF OUR HOMESCHOOL IS NOT RUSKIN, DO I HAVE TO REGISTER AT MY HOMESCHOOL AND RUSKIN?

You only register at your resident/home school. If accepted to the program, we will handle the transfer process.

DO I NEED A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO ENROLL MY CHILD?

No, school districts no longer require this information.

PROGRAM:

WHERE CAN I FIND THE CALIFORNIA STATE STANDARDS IN CHINESE?

The CA State Standards have not been translated into Mandarin by the CA Department of Education.

HOW LONG IS THE SCHOOL DAY?

Ruskin Kindergarten: 8:05 am - 12:50 pm (First 4 weeks of school)

Ruskin Kindergarten: 8:05 am - 1:50 pm (MTWF)

Ruskin Kindergarten: 8:05 am - 12:50 pm (Thursdays)

Ruskin 1-5: 8:05 am - 2:25 pm (MTWF)

Ruskin 1-5: 8:05 am - 1:10 pm (Thursdays)

IS THERE HOMEWORK IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE?

Yes, students are expected to complete BOTH their English and Mandarin homework. Homework is the way students practice what they have learned in class.

WHAT CHINESE BOOKS ARE USED FOR TEACHING?

We use Better Immersion curriculum as our core Mandarin language arts curriculum. Students are also provided iChinese Reader accounts and Level Chinese accounts so they have access to a library of online fiction and non-fiction Chinese books. Teachers also use Mandarin trade books to support students' learning with the SEAL units that our teachers have developed to engage our language learners.

HOW CAN I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR THE PLACEMENT TEST?

All students in Kindergarten-5th grade will take a placement test. **When starting Kindergarten, we don't expect to have any Mandarin language skills.** From first grade on up, your child will need to be able to use about 100 characters per grade level for reading, speaking, listening, and writing.

MISCELLANEOUS:

MY CHILD IS CURRENTLY IN THE MANDARIN IMMERSION PROGRAM. DO I HAVE TO APPLY AGAIN THIS YEAR?

No, your child will automatically matriculate to the next grade in the program.

WHY IS THERE ONLY ONE 8TH GRADE CLASS?

There is only one 8th grade class because when this program was founded, we started with two kindergarten classes and one first grade class. As we expand the program, we will have two Mandarin Immersion classes per grade level from Kindergarten to 7th grade.

HOW MANY KINDERGARTEN CLASSES ARE THERE FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR?

There will be two Kindergarten classes with a maximum of 26 students in each class.

IF THERE ARE NO SPOTS FOR 1ST GRADE, CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes, families may move out of the area and leave the program over the summer. We will have a waiting list for interested families. You can be contacted up and through the first month of the new school year.

HOW SOON CAN I APPLY?

Applications will only be accepted for students entering the program for the 2025-2026 school year. If your child is not old enough for the program, you will need to apply next year or the year that your child will be eligible for Kindergarten. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year will be available starting Wednesday, February 5th.

WILL THIS PROGRAM BE OFFERED AT OTHER BUSD SCHOOLS?

No, this program is only offered at Ruskin Elementary & Sierramont Middle School (starting 2023-2024). There are no plans to expand the program to other school sites.

HOW MANY OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED?

It depends on the number of spaces available and the number of applicants.

WHICH MIDDLE SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Ruskin Elementary is part of the Sierramont Family of schools. Currently, the plan is to have the program continue into middle school at Sierramont Middle School.

WHAT WILL THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

There will be another informational meeting in the spring for 5th grade families who will be matriculating into the middle school Mandarin program.