

Chinese Language Course

Descriptions

CHINESE I

Chinese I is an introductory course to Mandarin which refers to Standard Chinese. It takes an integrated communicative approach to empower students to speak Chinese (by mastering the Pinyin system, communicating through accurate pronunciation and intonation), to listen to Chinese (understand simple everyday narratives and dialogues), to read Chinese (comprehend simple texts on personal and social interactions using context clues, sentence structure, and identifying details), and to write Chinese (mastering strokes, stroke order, radicals, and writing characters).

CHINESE II

Chinese II helps students further develop their linguistic proficiency in the four areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and to expand their knowledge of Chinese culture and history. By the end of this course, students are expected to master basic verb tenses and to be able to communicate in authentic situations, expressing personal opinions on specific topics. Various culturally embedded activities will be integrated into the curriculum as well.

CHINESE III

Chinese III continues to develop students' four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The units present topics through which students further develop their vocabulary, grammar and language structure to communicate with people in Mandarin-speaking cultures. It emphasizes active communication in Chinese and broadens the student's understanding of Chinese culture. Students will be able to communicate in authentic situations in a Mandarin-speaking environment using interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills.

AP Chinese

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course emphasizes communication by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. It develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions). There are various supplementary materials and authentic materials provided in addition to the required texts.