



CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

Mandarin 6

World Language Philosophy of the Westport Public Schools

The Westport Public Schools World Languages program is aligned to the [World-Readiness Standards](#) published by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). It prepares students to meet the challenges of becoming global citizens by enabling them to communicate effectively, interact with cultural competence and understanding, acquire diverse perspectives, and participate in multilingual communities. Our World Languages courses emphasize oral communication while also building functional proficiency in reading and writing. The ultimate goal is to build interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills while targeting proficiency goals and cultural competence.

Mandarin 6th grade curriculum introduces Mandarin as a foreign language for beginners with no or very little background knowledge. In sixth grade, students will develop communication skills via thematic units relevant to their daily lives. They will master *Pinyin* (Mandarin Chinese phonetic system) and learn to recognize and write key Chinese characters, as well as the fundamentals regarding stroke order and radicals. Additionally, students will make comparisons and connections with other languages, cultures and disciplines and be provided with opportunities to explore and experience the products and practices of Mandarin Chinese speaking cultures. Students will begin to develop the skills necessary to communicate in everyday scenarios. Mandarin students develop communication skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through thematic units relevant to their daily lives. Through the use of technology, authentic tasks and real-life experiences, students will be provided with opportunities to explore and experience the wide variety of cultures of Mandarin Chinese speakers. The program encourages students to take risks with the language as they develop the necessary skills to become global citizens.

Mandarin 6	
Unit	Learning
Unit 1: Greetings	Students will: • perform greetings, introductions, and farewells in contextual settings. • use courtesy phrases appropriately in contextual settings. • respond to classroom commands.

	● use appropriate expressions to communicate in a classroom setting. ● recognize vowels, tones and consonants in a Pinyin structure. ● recognize and use Pinyin and tones when pronouncing specified Chinese characters. ● identify and count strokes within a character. ● apply the stroke order rules when writing characters. ● identify the basic structure of characters. ● recognize and count numbers 1-99. ● write personal pronouns appropriately. ● use, state and write their Chinese names. ● ask and respond to questions about someone's name. ● write a dialogue that includes greetings, introductions, and farewells. ● compare and contrast the structure and culture significance of choosing a name between Chinese and other cultures. ● identify key products and practices related to the Moon Festival celebration. ● compare and contrast the Moon Festival with Thanksgiving.
Unit 2: Introductions	Students will: ● state the day, date, and year orally and in writing. ● ask and respond to questions about day, date and year in context. ● locate information in a traditionally formatted Chinese calendar. ● exchange information about one's birth date and year orally and in writing. ● identify traditional practices related to birthday celebrations in Chinese culture. ● explain the function of a radical in a Chinese character. ● identify major cities in the world. ● ask and respond to questions about where one lives (Country, State, City). ● ask for and state one's phone number. ● perform simple introductions including name, age, phone number and residence orally and in writing. ● explain the Chinese Zodiac and its significance in Chinese culture. ● identify and recite the 12 zodiac animals. ● compare and contrast the lunar calendar with the western calendar. ● identify the products, practices and perspectives related to the Chinese New Year celebration.
Unit 3: Family	Students will: ● exchange personal information about oneself and others related to name, school, grade, age and birth date, address, telephone number, nationality and family members orally and in writing. ● identify and use the appropriate vocabulary to introduce members of the nuclear family orally and in writing.

	● identify major countries and corresponding cities on a world map. ● use the affirmative and negative in response to questions (是/ 不是 and 有/没有). ● ask and answer questions related to one's occupation. ● use Pinyin and radicals to locate selected vocabulary in traditional Chinese – English dictionaries (字典, 词典). ● explain the history and traditions of the Dragon Boat Festival. ● identify products, practices related to the Dragon Boat Festival celebration. ● compare and contrast between the traditional and modern Chinese family structure. ● explain the impact and recent changes of the One Child policy on the structure of modern Chinese families.
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