

## **Columbus Chinese Academy Community-Based Program**

### **Background Information**

**Institution:** Columbus Chinese Academy

**Program address:** P.O. Box 82244, Columbus, OH 43202

**Telephone:** (614) 792-5825

**Fax:** (614) 458-3583

**Web address:** [www.ohcca.org](http://www.ohcca.org)

### **Contact Person:**

**Name:** Ying-Liang Chou

**Title:** Principal

**Address:** P.O. Box 82244, Columbus, OH 43202

**Email:** [chouyl@battelle.org](mailto:chouyl@battelle.org)

**Telephone:** (614) 792-5825

**Fax:** (614) 458-3583

**Languages/dialects taught:** Mandarin and Taiwanese

### **Program Description**

#### **Purposes and goals of the program:**

- Offer Chinese language and cultural classes for children from 3 to 18 years old

**Type of program:** Saturday academy

**Program origin:** The program was founded in 1973.

#### **Parents' expectations for the program:**

- Children will learn Chinese

**Instructors' and administration's expectations for the program:** Staff are parents who are unpaid volunteers helping the children learn Chinese

## **Students**

**Countries of origin:** Most students (or their parents) are from Taiwan

**Total student enrollment:** 230

**Age of students:** 3-18

**How the program determines the language background and language proficiency of students:** Oral interviews

**Percentage of students who complete the program:** 90%

**Percentage of students who continue to study the heritage language after completing the program:** 50%

**Possible reasons for student withdrawal:**

- Busy weekend schedules

**Students' attitudes toward the language varieties they speak:** Students are proud that they can speak Chinese.

## **Instructors**

**Number of instructors in the program:** 40

**Languages in which instructors are proficient:** Mandarin

**Proficiency level:** Native speakers

**Credentials:** Instructors are parent volunteers.

**Professional development opportunities for instructors:**

- Overseas Chinese Teachers Conferences, sponsored by Taiwanese Cultural Center
- Alternative Teacher Licensure Training Program, Ohio State University

**Professional development opportunities instructors need:**

- Local conferences

**Comments:** Almost all teachers are mothers of the students.

## **Instruction**

**Total contact hours per week:** 3 hours

**Times per week:** 1

**Student grouping:** Students are grouped by grade-level

## **Language skills**

**Skills developed by the program:** Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Mandarin

**Levels of language proficiency reached by the end of the program:** Students become proficient listeners, speakers, readers, and writers of Mandarin.

## **Culture**

**Aspects of culture taught:**

- Arts and crafts
- Songs and dances
- Rhymes
- Chinese yo-yo
- Kung-Fu
- Tai-Chi

**Kind of student identity fostered by program:** The program develops children who cherish their Chinese heritage and speak, read, and write Chinese.

## **Methodologies**

**Methodologies and instructional strategies used in the program:** Various

## **Materials**

**Textbooks:** Texts are provided by the Taiwanese government's Overseas Council

**Other materials used for instruction:** Trade books

**Technology used for instruction:**

- Overhead projectors
- PCs and LCD projectors

## **Assessment**

**Assessments used to evaluate students' progress:**

- Chapter tests
- Midterm exams
- Final exams
- Teacher's observations
- Task-based assessments

**Articulation**

**How the program promotes parent involvement:** Parents frequently volunteer for school functions. All staff members and almost all teachers are parents.

**Opportunities for using the heritage language and developing cultural knowledge outside the program:**

- Students talk to their parent and grandparents in Chinese
- Many students used what they learn at the Academy to earn credits in college.

**What the program has in place**

**Types of financial support the program receives:**

- Support from government of Taiwan
- Student tuition
- Additional support from parents
- Support from local community organizations

**Types of support the program receives from these or other entities:**

- Fundraising events managed by staff
- School activities run by parent volunteers

**Solicitation of funding:** Staff members solicit funding and other support.

**Comments:** Program is looking for a permanent location.

**Special challenges**

**Challenges the program has experienced:**

- Lack of permanent location
- High dropout rate for older students
- Finding qualified teachers

**Comments:** Like many weekend language schools, our biggest challenge is staying at the same location for as long as possible. We moved to a new location this year which was a big hassle.

Our parents are all enthusiastic about school functions and want their children to learn Chinese well. Our school also provides adult classes (Tai-Chi, pottery, badminton). Chinese school is a social gathering/bonding place for parents. Many parents look forward to seeing their Chinese friends on Saturday afternoon in Chinese school.