



Community-Based Program

Background Information

Institution: Northern Virginia Experimental Chinese School

Program address: Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Rd. Chantilly, VA 20151

Web address: www.nvaeecs.org

Levels: Pre-K-12

Languages/dialects taught: Mandarin Chinese

Program Description

Program mission statement:

- To provide the opportunity for the local community to acquire Chinese language and cultural knowledge
- To promote the awareness of cultural diversity and harmony among the students and the community
- To apply non-traditional educational methods to supplement classroom teaching, such as cultural, social, sports, and other extra-curricular activities

Type of program:

- Saturday academy

Program origin: Founded in 1992

Students

Students:

- Second-generation immigrants, 98%
- Children of interethnic marriages, 1%
- Non-ethnic background, 1%

Countries of origin: Most families are from Taiwan, some from Hong Kong, and a few from China.

Total student enrollment: 300

How the program identifies heritage speakers: Interviews with the students

How the program determines the language background and language proficiency of students: By oral interview. Oral interviews are conducted at the time of registration for new students' class placement.

Percentage of students who complete the program: 50%

Percentage of students who continue to study the heritage language after completing the program: 20%

Instructors

Number of instructors in the program: 30

Languages in which instructors are proficient: Mandarin Chinese, English

Proficiency level: Native proficiency

Credentials:

- BA
- MA

Instruction

Total contact hours per week: Two hours

Student grouping: By grade level, from Pre-K to 10th grade

Language skills

Heritage language skills:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

Culture

Aspects of culture taught:

- History
- Festivals
- Customs
- Traditions/Beliefs
- Arts and crafts
- Rhymes

- Social and cultural norms
- Cultural appropriateness
- Literature

Assessment

Assessments used to evaluate students' progress:

- Weekly quizzes
- Chapter tests
- Mid-term tests
- Final exams
- Teacher's observations
- Performance-based tasks or assessment

Articulation

Connections with other institutions: Colleges and universities

What the program has in place

Financial support the program receives: Tuition

Other support the program receives: Some donations from parent volunteers

Solicitation of funding: By the fundraising director