



Community-Based Program

Background Information

Institution: Chinese School of Southern Westchester (CSSW)

Program address: P.O. Box 278 Scarsdale, NY 10530

Telephone: (914) 698-2363

Web address: <http://www.csswny.org>

Contact person

Name: F.J. Chu

Title: Principal

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Languages/dialects taught: Mandarin Chinese

What grades are included in the program: PreK-12th grade and adults

Program Description

Purposes and goals of the program: Promotes the teaching of Chinese language and arts and the understanding of Chinese culture and traditions

Type of program: Heritage, Saturday academy, culture courses, and adult education.

Program origin: 1981

Students:

- First-generation immigrants: 50%
- Children of interethnic marriages: 30%
- Children of interethnic adoptions: 10%
- Non-ethnic background: 10%

Total student enrollment: Approximately 250

Percentage of students who complete the program: 75%

Percentage of students who continue to study the heritage language after completing the program: 75%

Instructors

Number of instructors in the program: Approximately 20

Languages in which instructors are proficient: Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taiwanese

Credentials: B.A, M.A, and PhD

Instruction

Total hours per week: 3 hours per week. Two hours of classroom instruction are devoted to Chinese language and the third hour is reserved for participation in Chinese culture.

Times per week: Once per week

Language skills

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

Culture

Aspects of culture taught: Geography, philosophy, history, festivals, customs, folktales, arts and crafts, dances, brush painting, calligraphy, chess, kung fu, Chinese harp songs, rhymes, social and cultural norms

Methodologies

Methodologies and instructional strategies used in the program: Classroom instruction is reinforced by homework assignments and the use of other teaching aids during the school week. In addition to the formal activities within CSSW, students are encouraged to participate in music lessons and arts performances, as well as public speaking and essay competitions involving other schools and organizations.

Assessment

Assessments used to evaluate students' progress: Weekly quizzes, mid-term and final tests, teacher's observations and performance based-tests. Classroom instructions are reinforced by homework assignments.

Articulation

How the program develops home/school connections or promotes parent involvement: Parents and other adults participate in the basic culture classes. There are also adults only classes in Chinese language and other subjects. Seminars are regularly provided on topics of special interest to CSSW parents.

What the program has in place

Financial support the program receives: The program receives financial support from private and nonprofit organizations.