
A SUMMER CHINESE LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

STARTALK is one of several federal government initiatives aimed at increasing the number of Americans learning critically needed languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, and Persian, through new and expanded programs from kindergarten through universities and into the work force. STARTALK funds provide high school and middle school students with language learning experiences and language teachers with professional development opportunities in both residential and non-residential settings during the summer months.

The program administered by National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland (www.startalk.umd.edu) focuses on summer programs for high school and middle school students and professional development programs for prospective and current teachers for levels K-16. The Southern California Council of Chinese Schools (SCCCS), the Washington Metropolitan Association of Chinese Schools (WMACS), and the Chinese Language Teachers Association in Texas (CLTA-Texas) with the Houston Chinese Schools Association (HCSA), and Chinese schools in Dallas Ft Worth area are three of seventy-nine institutions from 32 states and the District of Columbia that received funding in 2008, including public and private universities, high schools, and heritage schools. SCCCSC has 113 member institutions with over 16,000 total enrolled students and WMACS has 24 member institutions with over 3000 total enrolled students learning Chinese after school hours and during weekends.

The STARTALK Chinese courses offered by Chinese heritage schools of SCCCSC, WMACS, and HCSA are rigorous yet enjoyable and are designed to be comparable to high school courses in Mandarin Chinese. Three levels of courses will be offered. The beginner courses, Introduction to Chinese, are rigorous yet enjoyable and are designed to be comparable or equivalent to the first and second semesters respectively of high school courses in Mandarin Chinese I. The course provides students with understanding of the basic principles of listening, speaking, reading, and writing the Chinese language

based on the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning. Also, the students will be given ongoing and varied opportunities to develop their language skills and learn about the richness of Chinese culture through online Moodles, digital media, artistic projects, and cultural activities on Lion Dancing, Chinese Diabolo, Calligraphy, Chinese Crafts, and others. The pre and post assessments and surveys will be conducted under the guidelines of the federal STARTALK program for audits and research purposes.

Testimonies of the 2007 STARTALK program sponsored by the heritage language schools:

- “What I liked best about the program was the people in it. At first when I started the program, I didn’t know anybody and I thought they were different than me. It turned out that they were really nice and I made friends with almost everybody there. They helped me and I enjoyed spending time with them. It was a lot of fun meeting new people.”
- “The program broadened my knowledge of Chinese culture. I am glad I had the opportunity. I also enjoyed making friends, who taught me a lot. In addition, the little things, such as crafts, skits, and opera, made this experience a lot more memorable.”
- “I liked learning Chinese in such a fun and supportive environment where it was easy to learn and where the students actually were interested in the language and willing to learn. I also think that the attitude of the teacher and the way of teaching were very positive and helpful.”
- “Everything was a great experience, and I enjoyed every second of it, especially the culture classes.”
- “The best part of the STARTALK program was that I was able to learn Chinese with people I could communicate with. I loved all the activities we did because they were enjoyable and educational.”

Please visit: teachingchinese.org for details, or send inquiries to:

TEXAS-

tx-startalk@hotmail.com

DC, VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND-

dc-startalk@hotmail.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-

cal-startalk@hotmail.com



開 始 說 中 文



START TALKING CHINESE

A Summer Chinese Language
Immersion Program

