



Orange Unified School District Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program Overview

Sara J. Pelly–2017-2018



Hello! 你好 Nǐ hǎo

OUSD's Mandarin Dual Language Immersion program at Fletcher School offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English and Mandarin.



Why Immersion?

- There is no other type of instruction, short of living in a second-language environment, that is as successful as a dual immersion program to help students attain high levels of second language proficiency and well-developed cultural skills. The cognitive, socio-cultural, and economic benefits are great. Young children especially thrive in this type of instructional environment.

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world." [~Ludwig Wittgenstein](#)

Proven Benefits

Second Language Skills

OUSD's Mandarin dual immersion students are on a pathway to read, write, speak and listen in Chinese at a high intermediate proficiency level by the time they take Advanced Placement Chinese and the Chinese AP Test (9th-11th grade.)

- **Improved Performance on Standardized Tests**
- **Enhanced Cognitive Skills**
- **Increased Cultural Sensitivity**
- **Long Term Benefits**

Proven Benefits

“What really counts for multinational businesses is employees’ ability to effectively communicate in a variety of cultures and contexts. Bilingual employees are valuable, not only for their language skills, but also for their ability to interact effectively with people around the world in either their first or second language.”

OUSD Dual Immersion Mandarin Program Objectives

- Maximize students' second language proficiency
- Provide a rich academic environment in both first and second languages
- Develop students' abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
- Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community

OUSD Dual Immersion Mandarin Program Design

- 50/50 Model Instruction in grades K-6
- Pinyin or Simplified Chinese is taught
- Focus on rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language; their brains are hard-wired for language acquisition
- During Mandarin Instructional minutes, Chinese-speaking teacher speaks only in Chinese and communicates using a wide range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, pantomime, drama, etc.
- Students encouraged to speak only in Mandarin during Mandarin Instructional time

OUSD Immersion Program Model

○ **Grades K-6**

- Universal Access during ELA, both English and Mandarin teachers use flexible grouping and differentiation to ensure success in English
- Universal Learning Design allows us to meet the needs of all students

○ **Middle School and Beyond**

- Planning in process for 1 Mandarin Language class, 1 core subject area
- Possibly offering beginning level Mandarin next year to increase participation
- Summer and 6th grade bridging activities

○ **GATE**

- GATE eligibility is based on existing District criteria
- Site focus on training in differentiation and enrichment strategies

Fletcher Falcons - Subgroups

- TK - 6th Grade - 434 students; Early Learning Center, 24 students
- Mandarin Immersion Program - 184 students (42.2%)
- Hispanic - 227 students (54.6%)
- SES - 217 students (52.3%)
 - Free Lunch - 184 (44.3%)
 - Reduced Lunch - 33 (7.5%)
- English Learners - 124 students (29.8%)
- Special Ed - 44 students (10.6%)
 - 2 Special Day Classes, 24 students



Fletcher Falcons - Ethnic Breakdown 17-18

- **Hispanic** - 220 students (54%)
- **White** - 92 students (22%)
- **Chinese** - 40 students (10%)
- **Filipino** - 16 students (4%)
- **Korean** - 10 Students (2%)
- **Vietnamese** - 9 students (2%)



Mandarin Students- Ethnic Breakdown 17-18

- **White** – 41 students (22%)
- **Asian** – 63 students (34%)
 - Chinese – 23 students (18%)
 - Chinese/Other – 10 students (8%)
 - Korean – 9 students (7%)
 - Vietnamese – 7 students (5%)
 - Filipino – 3 students (2%)
 - Other – 3 students (2%)
- **Hispanic** – 47 students (25%)
- **Multi-race** – 27 students (15%)
- **Other** – 6 students (5%)



Mandarin Students- Ethnic Breakdown 16-17

- **White** – 66 students (51%)
- **Asian** – 55 students (42%)
 - Chinese – 23 students (18%)
 - Chinese/Other – 10 students (8%)
 - Korean – 9 students (7%)
 - Vietnamese – 7 students (5%)
 - Filipino – 3 students (2%)
 - Other – 3 students (2%)
- **Hispanic** – 5 students (4%)
- **Other** – 6 students (5%)



OUSD Dual Immersion Mandarin Program Design

○ Curriculum

- Pearson Envision Math, K-6; McGraw Hill Wonders ELA (new adoption 17-18)
- Better Chinese, K-3; Easy Steps to Chinese 4-6

○ Grades K-1

- MLA with integrated SS and Science as, Math delivered by the Mandarin teacher
- English teacher develops building blocks for ELA skills and literacy

○ Grades 2-6

- Math Instruction in English, with a 30 minute preview/review in Mandarin to support concepts and vocabulary
- To ensure that the students understand the core content subjects, a strong collaborative effort exists between the two teachers to reinforce the students' learning.

○ Grades 4-6

- Greater sharing of content area responsibility developed between two teachers
- Increased concentration on Chinese literacy during the Mandarin half-day to help improve the students' proficiency.

Program Challenges

○ **Recruiting Students**

- Currently working on PR to better advertise our program
 - Website, banners, cultural events, fliers, word of mouth
 - Local colleges and universities

○ **Recruiting Teachers**

- Work Visas, cost/sustainability
- Cultural differences in American and Chinese education system

○ **Parent Involvement**

- Unify as one school
- Common direction for the school

Who Can Participate

- For the 2018-2019 school year, the OUSD Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications are open to all students entering **kindergarten** with future plans to expand through the secondary level.

How to Enroll My Child

*Students who reside outside of OUSD boundaries will need to submit an inter-district transfer form.**

[Map to Student & Community Services Department](#)

- **Inter-District Transfer Information & Forms**
- **OUSD Inter-District Forms (to transfer OUTSIDE of OUSD)**
- **Forms link on OUSD Website:**

[Inter-District Transfer Form](#)

[Work Verification](#)

[Child Care Verification](#)

How to Enroll My Child

Students are enrolled based on a lottery system, only after ALL required paperwork is completed.

Lottery criteria are as follows:

1. Fletcher attendance area
2. Siblings of current MIP students
3. OUSD attendance area
4. Inter-district transfers

Parent Responsibilities

- Commit to long-term participation in the immersion program
- Develop an understanding of immersion education
- Read with your child (in English) 20-30 min. daily
- Encourage the use of Chinese outside of school (SEE TIPS AND TRICKS)*
- Provide community support and, when possible, volunteer
- Enjoy the challenges; celebrate the results
- Learn as much of the language as you can!

Tips and Tricks

What Non-Chinese Speaking Families can do to Support Chinese Learning (*Chinese American International School, San Francisco*)

- Recognize that learning a second language is a big commitment for the child and family, knowing that for a period the child will likely struggle in either or both languages.
- Show great interest in your child's learning, routinely checking in with your child, ask him/her to read/say/show you something they have learned. Encourage your child to be the "teacher" and give you lessons about what words he/she learned that day.
- Closely communicate with your child's teachers. It's good practice to get updates about his/her current learning progress above and beyond parent-teacher conferences.
- Make homework a part of daily life. It's important to remember that time spent reinforcing what your child learns in school each day at home will help make it "sticky" for your child.

Tips and Tricks Continued

- Get tips from the teachers for what language games you can play with your kids at home, or what tools to use to enhance learning at home. Our teachers are a wealth of knowledge and can give you advice regarding tapes, CDs, videos, websites and more.
- Invite your child's classmate or friends over to work on homework or assignments together. Create a learning buddy system. It can also develop a healthy social life.
- Encourage your child to take advantage of every speaking opportunity in Mandarin that he/she can. For example, talking with merchants in stores who speak Mandarin, Chinese restaurants, etc.
- Attend/celebrate Chinese cultural events during the weekend to arouse children's interest towards Chinese culture. There are many cultural events that happen in our own backyard.
- Babysitters. Planning a date night or an adult only weekend getaway? Consider hiring a Mandarin speaking babysitter who will help reinforce vocabulary and might even be able to help with homework.

MIP Parent Tours

- Fletcher will be providing tours of the MIP Program every Wednesday in the month of February: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
- Tours begin at 8:30am
- Classroom visits are during Mandarin Instruction
- First hand look at students speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin
- Principal will guide tour and lead a brief information session



Fletcher School Mission

*Fletcher Elementary School is committed to **providing a positive, safe learning environment, and a quality instructional program for all students** so they can achieve their maximum social and academic potential.*





Thank you! 谢谢 Xièxiè

"A different language is a different vision of life." ~[Federico Fellini](#)