

# 学 中 文

## Why learn Mandarin?

Mandarin Chinese, the most widely spoken language in the world, can connect our students to millions of people. Through learning Mandarin, our children are able to manage the skills they need to succeed in the future, and explore a different culture.

As a tonal language, studies using brain scans have found that Mandarin speakers use more areas of their brain than people who speak English. In addition to helping students develop their brains at a young age, the Chinese characters can also significantly improve their memorization. The knowledge of Chinese can help students in learning other Eastern languages as well.

The SDFAS Mandarin curriculum will teach students the foundation of Chinese, such as vocabulary and sentence structure. With only a small number of classes per week, we do not expect students to acquire language fluency, as this would require a full immersion program, like we do for French. We will, however, help them build solid foundation in Chinese. Even though the process for learning Chinese may be on-again off-again due to relocation, vacation, or any number of reasons, the students build a solid foundation in Chinese, and will easily be able to pick up the materials from where they left off in the last session.

## What do the student learn in the Mandarin SDFAS program?

### The Chinese phonics – Pin Yin

Pin Yin is the official phonetic system for transcribing the Mandarin pronunciations of Chinese characters into the Latin alphabet. Learning Pin Yin is the basic and fundamental way to capture the accurate tone sense. In the future, our students can type Chinese characters in the computer according to the Pin Yin rules.

### Chinese Character Recognition

A person needs to know about 3,000 Chinese characters to live a normal life in China. A lot of these characters share the same radicals (character roots). The SDFAS Chinese class teaches students the high-frequent use characters, and the most common radicals. In this way, they recognize the characters more efficiently.

### Language Function

Our students will learn different common and useful sentence patterns. Through different activities, they will also learn Chinese grammar along the way.

**When are the classes?** Depending of the level, Mandarin classes occur during class hours, after class (ASA) or Saturday classes.



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Discover the Fun  
of Learning Chinese

快快乐乐学中文

CURRICULUM

MANDARIN

普通话



  
SAN DIEGO FRENCH ★ AMERICAN SCHOOL

## SCHOOL PROGRAM

PK1-K

PK1 EXPOSURE

CLASS HOURS

1. Chinese tones: Students will acquire the accurate tone sense through singing songs and playing games.

2. Vocabulary: basic and high frequent vocabulary will be introduced.

3. General culture: major festivals, cities and food add a colorful perspective to the class.

PK2 BASIC

CLASS HOURS

1. Increasing vocabulary: more basic and daily vocabulary will be introduced.

2. Simple sentences: students will practice daily oral sentences. They will focus on a few basic and useful sentence patterns with variations of different subjects and objects from their new vocabulary.

3. Chinese character recognition: students will start to recognize simple Chinese characters and their roots.

4. Fun Culture: students will explore the Chinese culture in different aspects such as lifestyles, major cities, food, and rituals.

KINDERGARTEN

AFTER CLASS

1. Vocabulary and sentences: students will continue to expand their vocabulary sentence base.

2. Character recognition: more characters will be introduced to students.

3. Chinese culture: students will learn fun Chinese history and the modern Chinese daily practice.

4. Writing characters: students will start to learn basic character roots and simple characters.

5. Unique Chinese grammar: students will learn unique Chinese grammar through fun games.

## ASA PROGRAMS

ORAL SPEAKING CHINESE

The Chinese oral speaking class is designed for students who need more time to practice Chinese. The students are able to sing and speak Chinese through various activities. The class is conducted in a Chinese immersion environment where students can develop their accurate Mandarin tone sense and their interest in the Chinese culture.

PK and K students' conversational practice will be set in different scenarios. It will enable the students to review useful sentences. -Students in 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will focus on dialog practice for daily life.

PK1-PK2-K AND Gr 1-8

CHINESE FOUNDATION PROGRAM

The Chinese Foundation Class is designed to improve students' Chinese character recognition and their oral speaking and Chinese reading and writing skills.

PK and K students will pick up basic vocabulary, sentence patterns, simple characters and fun Chinese culture. Students in 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades will follow the curriculum "Step by Step Chinese Proficiency" to build a solid foundation in the different aspects mentioned above. If a student joins a two-hour class, the second hour will focus on Chinese characters. Students make academic progress and have fun through the program's hands-on curriculum, which includes singing, games, drama, and other fun activities.

PK1-PK2-K AND Gr 1-8

## SATURDAY CLASS

BILINGUAL CLASS

This class is not only designed to improve listening, speaking, reading and writing, but it also incorporates other subjects such as culture and literature

INTENSIVE CLASS

This program is mainly designed for students who have already had familial experience with Chinese. It gives students the opportunity to rapidly expand their knowledge of the Chinese language in a rich immersion environment.

"IMPORTED" CHINESE CLASS

The curriculum of this program is designed for native speaking students. This program teaches students by using the same materials that students in China currently use. Our students can therefore experience a Chinese class like they are in China!

Note: 1-hour, 2-hour, and 3-hour classes are available for all kinds of classes above.