

Basic facts about Chinese language

- Mandarin is the first language of nearly one billion people.
- Mandarin Chinese is spoken by more people than any other language in the world.
- All Chinese languages share one writing system.
- The standard spoken Chinese is called “Putonghua” (Common Language) in Mainland China and “Guoyu” (National Language) in Taiwan.
- Chinese people can write their language by typing on a standard computer keyboard.

Benefits for learning Chinese

Although Mandarin Chinese is considered one of the most difficult languages to learn because of its tones, writing system and cultural contexts, there are features that make it quickly learned:

- Grammar is easy (e.g., no tense);
- The Chinese number system is easier to manipulate for children.
- Technical terms are descriptive (e.g., “huo shan” [fire mountain] for “volcano”).

Further benefits include:

- Research shows that learning a foreign language improves cognitive and academic advantages, including math and English.
- China-related career opportunities are increasing.

The Ohio State University K-12 Chinese Flagship Program

The OSU K-12 Chinese Flagship Program is a part of the OSU Chinese Flagship Program funded by the National Security Education Program. It was created in October 2006 to assist in creating model programs in Ohio schools that want to make Chinese language part of their curriculum.

Any school or district that would like assistance to start or improve a Chinese language program is welcome to contact us. We look forward to working with you.



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The Ohio State University K-12 Chinese Flagship Program



Yongpei Gao and his students in Gurney Elementary School

俄亥俄州立大学
中文旗舰工程

中小学中文项目

<http://k12chineseflagship.osu.edu>

Program mission

- Prepare Ohio students to be creative competitors in the world of the 21st Century.
- Create the capacity in Ohio schools to establish language programs that lead to solid communication skills in Mandarin Chinese, in both spoken and written media.

Program objectives

- Create the infrastructure for an effective program with proficiency-based curriculum and performance-based learning and teaching strategies.
- Provide professional development and support for Chinese language teachers.
- Develop a technology support system with effective Chinese language programs for schools in Ohio, and connect them with schools in China.
- Partner with selected schools to create model programs.
- Collaborate with professional partners to provide teacher training and facilitate alternative educator license in Ohio.
- Help build partnerships between heritage schools and K-12 schools offering Chinese.
- Network with corporations to support mutually beneficial programs.
- Involve all sectors of the Ohio citizenry in the mainstreaming of Chinese language learning.



Pinpin Peng and her students in Columbus Metro High School

Chinese in Ohio K-12 schools

With China emerging on the global stage and Ohio exports to China increasing (\$1.3 billion in 2006), Chinese language has caught the attention of K-12 schools across Ohio. Three years ago, only a few schools in Ohio offered Chinese language. In 2007-08, Chinese is taught in 51 schools or districts in Ohio to more than 5,000 students. In addition, more high school students are learning Chinese through individualized distance learning and summer programs at The Ohio State University. For further information, visit <http://k12chineseflagship.osu.edu>.



Butler Tech Schools students in China, April 2007

Our program support to Ohio schools

The OSU K-12 Chinese Flagship Program cooperates with partners in Ohio to establish effective Chinese language programs in schools by developing three sectors of resources:

- Performance-based curriculum development.
- Teacher training, support, and development.
- Technology support.

The K-12 Chinese Flagship Program is interested in supporting all schools in Ohio that are offering or planning to offer Chinese language. We have seven partner schools in the 2008-09 school year (Beachwood, Beavercreek, Columbus Metro, Diocese of Columbus, Gahanna-Jefferson, Shaker Heights Schools, and Polaris Career Center), and will expand the partnership to more schools in following years. The program will contribute to Ohio economy, broaden career opportunities for students and citizens of Ohio, and enhance our national security and international relations by preparing young Americans to play important roles in the 21st century.

Partners of K-12 Chinese program

- Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
- Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS)
- Global Knowledge Exchange (GKE)

To learn more about the K-12 Chinese Flagship Program, visit <http://k12chineseflagship.osu.edu>