



City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL

Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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May 6, 2021

Dear Grade Six Parent:

Your child is currently enrolled in our Mandarin Chinese Language program. As an International Baccalaureate school tasked with promoting intercultural understanding, and given the fact that Mandarin is the most spoken language on the planet, we feel that it is important to expose all of our students to this wonderful language and culture. This generation of students will encounter a growing need to build bridges with China and people of Chinese language background. They may even find economic opportunities for our city and themselves by acquiring these skills.

Starting in grade seven, your child is eligible to become a part of the full Mandarin Chinese track by leaving the language track in which they are currently enrolled (French or Spanish). By joining this language track, they will have the benefit of previous exposure to introductory level Chinese. However, please be aware that Chinese provides significant challenges for students due to the fact that the tones and characters are entirely different from that of our western languages. In order to manage the demands of this new frontier, students will need to be prepared to demonstrate extraordinary levels of effort and cooperation with their instructors in the program, Mrs. Zheng (pronounced “jung”) and Mrs. Lu.

AP & IB exams in Mandarin provide our students the ability to demonstrate competence to potential colleges. The Regents equivalency examination allows our students studying Mandarin to qualify for the Advanced Regents Diploma designations. In 2015, City Honors was designated as a “Confucius Classroom School” through the University at Buffalo Confucius Institute, providing special ongoing funding to support our Chinese program. I continue to be amazed at our students’ accomplishments and love for Chinese language and culture.

If you believe your child is interested and capable of taking on the challenge of Mandarin throughout the remainder of their career at City Honors, please [complete the online course registration form at this link](#), no later than **May 28, 2021**. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school counselor at 816-4243 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William A. Kresse, Ph.D.
Principal

