

Why **Mandarin Chinese**?

Chinese is the most widely-spoken first language in the world. The Mandarin dialect is the official language of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, and is widely understood in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Mongolia. Also, according to the 2000 US Census, Chinese is now the third most commonly spoken language in the US.

China is heir to the traditions of one of the world's richest and most ancient cultures, and home today to the world's second largest economy. Its political, economic, and cultural impact in generations to come will be significant. As business and political relationships between the US and China deepen and become more complex, having the skills to communicate with people in this increasingly important part of the world will be a valuable asset at home and abroad.



**Mandarin Chinese Language
Immersion Magnet School**

休士頓中文沉浸學校



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MCLIMS.org

Mandarin **Chinese**

Language **Immersion**

Magnet School

休士頓中文沉浸學校



ACHIEVING BEYOND ACADEMICS



What Happens at MCLIMS?

At MCLIMS, our students spend half the day learning Chinese from a native Chinese-speaking teacher and half the day learning in English from an English-speaking teacher. Only a few students enter the program with the ability to speak Mandarin. Our teachers build all students' language skills through a rich immersion environment, using a variety of engaging strategies, including pictures, songs, games, body language, pantomime, and drama.

In addition to Chinese literacy, our Chinese-speaking instructors teach math and science, all in an immersion environment. Native Chinese-speakers are offered enrichment and extensions that build on their existing vocabulary and skills.

During the other half of the school day, students learn social studies and English reading and writing, plus a review of math and science academic vocabulary.

Students also attend PE, Music, and Library. As much as possible, Chinese language and culture are woven into these classes and other school events. Students participate in school-based traditional Chinese festivals, including Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese New Year. These events bring students, faculty, and families together to learn, celebrate, and build a close-knit community.



Why MCLIMS?

Second Language Benefits

Develop greater cognitive flexibility, increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem-solving skills. Standardized test scores of dual language learners consistently show higher long term achievement in English.

Cultural Awareness

With our richly diverse student body and our curricular connections to East Asian cultures, students gain a broad international perspective.

Pre-K through 8th Grade

Our school is designing a new \$32 million building, which will eventually serve grades Pre-K through 8, ensuring a continuous program experience and the potential to gain advanced language proficiency in Chinese.

Academic Excellence

In addition to our goal of being prepared to take AP Chinese in 9th grade, we will prepare students for success on English language achievement tests, such as the STAAR.

Gifted and Talented

All core teachers in every grade level are trained to serve Gifted and Talented students.

Suzuki Violin

A full-time violin teacher meets with small groups of students for semi-private violin instruction in the Suzuki Method. This program includes options during the school day or after school.

After-School Opportunities

After-school care and programs include: science and engineering classes, piano, ceramic arts, kung fu, Chinese dance, Name That Book, Garden Club, and Girl Scouts.



How Do I **apply**?

MCLIMS seeks to enroll students of all backgrounds and abilities, without regard to native language.

In grades Pre-K and kindergarten, prospective students apply through HISD's online magnet school application (see MCLIMS.org). There are no entrance requirements. If the school receives more applicants than available slots, students are selected by lottery. As a pure magnet school, MCLIMS has no attendance zone, so no preference is given based on home address. There are 44 slots for pre-kindergarten and these students continue on to kindergarten without the need to reapply; however, an additional 44 slots open for new kindergarten enrollees.

If spaces are available in grades 1-4 next year, prospective students will apply directly to the school. To ensure their success in the dual language program, a basic Chinese language proficiency test will be administered.

