

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 Immersion Magnet School

休士頓中文沉浸學校



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MIMSHISD.org



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**LIVE THE VALUES.
MASTER CHINESE. EXCEL.**

重视品格 • 精通中文 • 超越自我



What Happens at MIMS?

At MIMS, our elementary 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 Art. 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 MIMS?

Character Education

We believe character matters most. In Mandarin and English, students learn the importance of our six school values: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Perseverance, Curiosity, and Courage.

Second Language Benefits

Second language learners 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 new \$32 million building has allowed us to create a Pre-K to 8th grade school, ensuring a continuous program experience and the potential to gain advanced language proficiency in Chinese.

Academic Excellence

In addition to our goal of preparing our students for AP Chinese in 8th or 9th grade, we consistently score among the top schools in Houston in English language standardized tests. Beyond test scores, our students are exposed to a rich curriculum with a focus on art, technology, and design.

Gifted and Talented

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

After-School Opportunities

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



How Do I **apply**?

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

All students apply online at hisdchoice.com. As a pure magnet school, MIMS has no attendance zone, so no preference is given based on home address. If the school receives more applicants than available slots, students are selected by lottery.

Pre-K follows the new HISD eligibility requirements. No entrance requirements for kindergarten. There are 44 slots for pre-kindergarten; these students continue to kindergarten without the need to reapply. An additional 44 slots open for new kindergarten enrollees.

For first grade and up, students are required to take a Mandarin proficiency assessment. This assessment is scheduled through hisdchoice.com when you submit an application.

Application for SY 2023-24

- K-12 Phase 1: December 14, 2022 – February 2, 2023
- K-12 Phase 2: April 5, 2023 – June 15, 2023