



**Mandarin
Immersion**

Magnet School 休士頓中文沉浸學校

Course Syllabus: 1st Grade

Teachers: Ms. Russo/Ms. C. Chen Mrs. Worden/Mrs. T. Chen

Email: jrusso@houstonisd.org, ChienHui.Chen@houstonisd.org, Jessalynn.Worden@houstonisd.org,
TCHEN1@houstonisd.org



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Introduction:

Ms. Russo:

Hello Parents! I'm so happy to join the First Grade Team – the books and the curriculum look so fun! I started my teaching career 31 years ago, and I am super excited to tackle first grade for the first time. I received my BA in Elementary Education (1-8) and my Masters in Multi-Culture Urban Education from the University of St. Thomas. I am very passionate about what I do and am always looking for new and creative ways to engage my students.

Ms. C. Chen:

你好！Hello! This is my second year at MIMS. I am very proud to be a part of MIMS family and I am extremely excited to continue to be a part of the 1st Grade team at the Mandarin Immersion Magnet School. I graduated from the University of Houston in 2017. I have been working with students since I was in college. I really enjoy teaching Chinese and working with kids. It is my honor to be your child's teacher this year and Welcome to my classroom!

Mrs. Worden:

Hello Wonderful Families! I'm excited to be joining the MIMS family and looking forward to getting to know our first graders! Although this is my first year at MIMS, it will be my 14th year in the classroom. Life has taken me around the world and back home to Houston. I have taught grades 1-3, been a school librarian (K-5th), and taught in 7 schools around the world. I graduated from the University of Houston (main campus), with a degree in Elementary Education. I look forward to a fun reading filled year!

Mrs. T. Chen:

It is my pleasure to serve at MIMS as the first grade Mandarin teacher this year. This is my fifth year teaching at MIMS and also my eleven year working with children. Born and raised in Taiwan, I was an EFL teacher at public elementary schools in Taiwan for six years before coming to advance my professional knowledge in bilingual education at Texas A&M in 2012. I look forward to teaching your child and working with you this year.

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Curriculum:

- Reading (Guided Reading, HMH new adoption)
- Language Arts (HMH, Handwriting Without Tears)
- Chinese Language Arts (Better Chinese - My First Chinese Reader Volume 1)
- Mathematics (Texas Go Math!)
- Science (Science Fusion)
- Social Studies (Texas Studies Weekly)

You can find weekly course objectives on our MIMS website. We will be using a variety of different resources and materials to make sure all individual students' needs are met. More information about the curriculum can be found on the HISD website.

Supplies/Materials Needed: Please check the school website for the First-Grade supply list.

Performance Standards:

In preparation for second grade, successful students will:

- Understand all first-grade objectives with a grade of 70% or higher in all 4 core courses
- Have a Reading Level J by the end of first grade
- Practice cognitive skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration daily
- Pass both English and Chinese First Grade High Frequency Word Evaluations with 70% or higher

To meet the magnet expectation, students are required to pass Chinese High Frequency Word (HFW) tests with a grade of 70% or higher.

If a student does not pass either the Beginning of the Year (BOY) or the Middle of the Year (MOY) Chinese HFW test, they will be placed on a growth plan and interventions will be implemented.

If a student on a growth plan does not pass the End of the Year (EOY) Chinese HFW test, the student will be exited from the magnet program.

If a student who passed the Chinese HFW BOY and MOY tests, but did not pass the HFW EOY test, the student is required to go to summer school.

There are NO RETAKES for either BOY, MOY, or EOY Chinese HFW exams.

Academic Grading System: What You Need to Know

To better help parents and students transition from the Kindergarten to First Grade grading system, please read the frequently asked questions below:

What is my child graded on?

Students are graded on weekly tests (i.e. spelling, reading comprehension, etc.), classwork, and projects.

Is homework graded?

Homework is not graded. To meet MIMS magnet expectations, students should complete at least 90% of homework assignments.

Where will grades be posted? Grades will be posted on Gradespeed weekly. Parents and students are expected to monitor course grades and attendance information via the Internet regularly at:

<http://www.houstonisd.org/domain/11001>

It is the parent's responsibility to check grades on Gradespeed or weekly Tuesday folders for results.

What is the grading scale?

Grading Scale

A	90 – 100%	Excellent
B	80 – 89%	Good
C	75 – 79%	Satisfactory
D	70 – 74%	Passing
F	0 – 69%	Failing

What is the weight of tests and assignments in my child's final grade?

Reading/English Language Arts/Social Studies

Category	% of final grade
Classwork	35%
Quizzes	25%
Tests /Projects	40%

Chinese Language Arts/ Math/ Science

Category	% of final grade
Classwork	35%
Quizzes	25%
Tests/Projects	40%

How often will my child be tested?

Tests will be administered weekly on Monday (Friday for ELA & SS) unless notified due to scheduling conflicts or if the teacher feels the objective has not been mastered by 80% of the class.

What subjects are tested?

All subjects will be tested (i.e. paper test, orally, or independent classwork). Students will do no more than 3 tests per class. Tests are no more than 15 min. each with breaks in between.

English, Reading, Writing, Social Studies (Ms. Russo and Ms. Worden)
Chinese, Math, Science (Ms. A. Chen and Ms. Y. Chen)

If my child fails a test can they retake it? How many times can a failed grade be “retaken?” Any student who fail a test or quiz will be given the opportunity to correct or retest for the highest grade of 70%. Test will be returned in the Tuesday red folder.

Can I request testing accommodations for my child?

Student with current 504 or Special Education accommodations will continue to receive documented accommodations. If you suspect your child needs accommodations, please reach out to your teachers to express your concerns.

Projects: During the spring semester students will be working in the English classroom on a research project using books, technology and interviews as sources and presenting it at our annual Research Expo. In the Chinese class, students will be working on three projects which are evaluated by both oral and written presentation. Student-made projects are highly encouraged.

Month	Chinese	English
August/September		Time line (SS)

October		
November		Turkey in Disguise Writing
December		
January		
February	100th Day Project	
March		
April		Research Expo
May		Flat Stanley

Daily Binder: Please sign your child's weekly behavior sheet and return to school daily.

Class Rules: Please keep all toys, excessive jewelry, etc. at home. Per our school policy, we do not celebrate birthdays at school. However, you may send birthday party invitations as long as there is one for each child.

Homework: Weekly homework will be sent home in the folder in the binder, clearly labeled "Homework. Due: _____."

English Homework → Sent home on Mondays; due the following Monday (one week later)

Reading: Reading for 20-30 minutes/day.

Spelling Test: Word list includes spelling words, sight words and "challenge" words (not graded).

Parent Initials will indicate students read daily/practiced word list.

Chinese Classroom

Required: Weekly Homework packet

Recommended: 1. Review quizlets for Chinese High Frequency Words, as well as math and science terms; 2. Review lessons on Betterchinese.com; 3. Read Science Fusion

Occasionally, we will send home extra practice sheets and it is the responsibility of the parent to determine how much extra practice their child should complete. The extra practice packet will not be collected, scored, or graded. It should stay at home.

Late Work Policy: If a student is absent, incomplete assignments must be completed within a reasonable timeline. If a student is absent for 2 days, the missing assignments should be turned in within 2 days of returning. In any case, a student should not take more than 5 school days to make up work. Please contact your child's teacher if you know in advance of absences.

Conduct Grades: Conduct grades are separate from academic grades and reflect overall student behavior. Conduct grades will appear on every progress report and report card. The default conduct grade is Satisfactory. The other grades are Excellent, Poor, and Unsatisfactory. Students conduct will be graded weekly on Purple (4), Green (3), Yellow (2), and Red (1). The overall conduct grade is based on the average of conduct grades in each grading period. The breakdown for grade is described below.

Conduct Grade	Daily Color	Student Behavior...
Excellent	Purple (4)	Goes above and beyond to demonstrate MIMS values. Student independently follows classroom routines and expectations without teacher redirection.
Satisfactory	Green (3)	Meets classroom expectations and generally is not a concern. Student needs some reminders regarding expectations but responds to redirections within a reasonable timeframe.
Poor	Yellow (2)	Often fails to meet classroom expectations and results in disruptions of learning environment directly or indirectly
Unsatisfactory*	Red (1)	Consistently fails to meet classroom expectations and results in disruptions of learning environment directly or indirectly. Student consistently fails to respond to redirection.

*Any suspension will lead to an unsatisfactory conduct grade for the referring classroom. (SDMC 1/13/14)

Contact us: Best way to contact us is through email. Please allow us 24-48 hours to response. Please email MIMSdismissal@houstonisd.org to send information about change of transportation. Teachers are not responsible to check or forward information to the school regarding transportation changes.

Conference Time: 10:35–10:50 a.m. or 10:55-11:10 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We look forward to working with you and your student to make this a great school year. If you have any concerns regarding your student's progress, please contact us. Once you have reviewed and discussed this syllabus with your student, please sign and return this page.

Sincerely,

First Grade Team

Signature Page – MIMS First Grade Syllabus 2019-2020

Sign and Return

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Student Name (print neatly): _____

I have read the syllabus and I will do my best to succeed in this class.

Student Signature _____

Parent Name (print neatly): _____

I have read the syllabus and will support my son/daughter to succeed in this class.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____