

# Guiding Principles: Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion Magnet School

Guiding Principles articulate a school's vision, values, hopes and ideals to the design team. Guiding Principles will be used to "test" the decisions that are made throughout the design process, since every element of the building must be created to support the school's vision and values.

## MCLIMS' Guiding Principles:

**Academic Program** – Our school's core mission is to create students with high academic achievement and fluency or advanced proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.

We achieve our mission through three key program elements:

- 50% Chinese/50% English instruction in all grade levels, pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup>
- A culture of hard work and respect in all areas of student life on campus
- Smaller learning communities (teams) that enable close collaboration among students and teachers (grade-level teachers work closely together and grade-levels are paired, PK & K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)

**Diverse Learning Environments** –Language learning requires a rich physical, digital, and linguistic environment, therefore, every campus space should be used to its maximum extent to provide learning opportunities.

- Indoor spaces must accommodate flexible groupings and blended (digital-physical) learning models (including large-group use)
- Technological capacity must accommodate blended learning, in-class audio features like voice amplification, and distance learning with our international sister schools
- Outside spaces should promote environmental learning (such as the Chinese vegetable garden)
- Wall and floor/ground spaces should include murals or ground paintings (e.g., world maps or solar system diagrams)

**Community** – Our building should facilitate community involvement, including parent volunteer workspace and venues to showcase both outside and student-centered performances and art. It should accommodate adult education and be suited to host community events. The building design and decoration should be a balanced representation of Chinese, Western, and global perspectives.

**Safety** – Our campus must be a safe environment, both physically and emotionally. True learning can only occur when everyone feels safe from harm and free to explore their interests free from criticism and bias. We wish to achieve the appropriate balance between openness to the community and a controlled environment that is secure for our students and staff.