



2018 STARTALK STEM-Integrated Chinese Learning Program
Huayuan Chinese Academy
PO Box #1212
Rockville, MD 20849
huayuanstartalk@gmail.com
Phone: 240-688-6339, 240-205-5306



I.) Program Description:

The 2018 “STARTALK STEM*-Integrated Chinese Learning Program” will provide students with an exciting three-week summer experience and an optional extension program of ten-week classes (twice per week). This is an innovative program from which students will gain an increased interest and understanding of Chinese culture and language. Through an immersive STEM-based Chinese language curriculum with the theme, “Explore Water, an Essential Element of Life,” students will participate in cultural and scientific activities while simultaneously learning the beginner level Chinese needed for basic communication. Note that this program is designed for those who have never attended our summer program before and those who do not speak Chinese at home.

*Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

II.) Important Program Phone Numbers:

Dr. Alan Cheung, Program Director, 301-254-1238
Dr. Stella Liu, Co-Program Director, 202-758-6905
Wendy Wang, Program coordinator, 240-688-6339
Helen Qin, Administrative & Financial Officer, 240-205-5306

III.) Program Hours:

The student day at the STARTALK STEM-Integrated Chinese Learning Program will run from 8:30am to 3:00pm on weekdays Mon., June 25 through Fri., July 13 and will include a field trip day Friday, July 6th and a final program for parents on the last day, Fri., July 13. There will be no class on July 4th.

IV.) For Parents Planning to Drive Their Children:

1.) Be Prompt:

For those parents planning to drive their children, please make every effort to have your child arrive on time. Please do not drop off students prior to 8:30am, as staff will not be available to supervise students prior to this time. Please pick your child up promptly at 3:00pm. If on any given day, extenuating circumstances (extreme traffic, family emergency) will cause you to be later than 3:00pm picking up your child, please contact Wendy Wang at 240-688-6339 or Alan Cheung 301-254-1238.

2.) Student Drop-Off Procedure:

The program will take place at Rosemont Elementary School (16400 Alden Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877). As you enter the campus, follow the drive to the parking area. Please park your car and walk in with your child. On the first day, staff will be present to direct you to the proper classroom. You must walk in with your child and sign your child in everyday.

3.) Student Pick-Up Procedure:

Please park your car and come into the building for student pick-up. You must sign your child out. If someone other than the child's parent or guardian will be dropping off or picking up the child, please complete that information and permission on the Student Application Form. If once the program begins, you wish to add an additional person who has permission to drop off or pick up your child, simply provide a written, signed notice to Wendy or Alan at the Program.

V.) Notification of Absences:

It is essential that parents and students make a commitment to attend all fourteen days of the program. Without regular attendance, full benefit of the program is not possible, and student absences are disruptive to the program. Communication is key to creating a cooperative relationship between parents

and program staff. If on any given morning, you determine your child is too ill to attend the program that day, please call Wendy Wang at 240-688-6339 or Alan Cheung 301-254-1238 to let us know your child will be absent. We appreciate your cooperation.

VI.) Parent Visits to Program:

In order to maintain an effective learning environment and avoid disruptions, we ask that parents do not visit their children during the program day. If you have a special concern and would like to be on site during part of our program, please e-mail huayuanstartalk@gmail.com or contact Wendy Wang at 240-688-6339 or Alan Cheung 301-254-1238 to make arrangements. All parents will be invited to attend a special presentation at the end of our program.

VII.) A Typical Day in the Program:

Below is a schedule of a typical day in the STARTALK Program. Please note this is **not** an exact schedule for every day of the program, and daily schedules may adjust or change as needed. Rather, this is to give your child an idea of how he/she will spend his/her day with us. Please also note that the first day June 25 and the last day July 13 of the program, is Orientation Day and the graduation day, and will have a different schedule.

8:30 AM Welcome; Warm-up

8:45AM Chinese language instruction, designed around the theme ("Water"), taught through games, songs, and group activities

9:35AM Break

9:45AM Chinese cultural activities, designed to provide hands-on fun experiences and opportunities to use learned vocabulary (dragon boats, lotus boats to sail in plastic water pools, all related to water products unique in Chinese cultures)

10:35AM Break and snacks

10:50AM Mid-morning exercise (Chinese dancing, Martial Arts, or Chinese recreational gymnastics);

11:20AM Scientific experiments, designed around the water theme to provide meaningful opportunities to use vocabulary and sentences learned in Chinese language instruction

12:20PM Lunch & Recess

1:20PM Computer lab language learning (reinforce language learning)

2:00PM Reflection and closing

2:30PM Review/Wind-down

3:00PM Dismissal

VIII.) Meals & Snacks:

The 2018 STARTALK Summer Program will provide snacks (around 10:35am) and lunch during the course of the program (approximately at 12:00pm). Snacks and lunch will be provided free of charge. Students will be dismissed at 3:00pm. Lunch will be provided free of charge to students on the field trip day, Friday, July 6th.

IX.) Water:

The program will issue water bottles to students at the beginning of the program and they can take bottles home everyday for refill. Students may, if they prefer, bring their own water bottles to the program. Please label all personal water bottles with the student's name. Students may also use water fountains inside the school.

X) Cultural Activity Choices for Students:

We will be offering students the opportunity to enroll in ONE of two for the duration of the program. Choices are Chinese dance and non-contact martial arts. On the application form, students should select their choice for cultural activity. Please note that enrollment in either of these activities is limited, and students will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis. Every student will be placed in one cultural activity class. Once selections are made, students may not change cultural activity groups.

XI.) T-Shirts:

Each student will be issued two program T-shirts free of charge. T-shirts will be distributed on the orientation day, the first day of the program. Please have your child wear their T-shirt according to the following schedule and on as many other days as is practical: STARTALK Site Visit Day (to be determined); Final Program Day (Fri., July 13).

XII.) Shoes:

Many activities in our program will require students to be physically active. Please make sure your child wears closed-toed shoes to the program each day (no sandals or flip-flops).

XIII.) Medical Conditions and Medications:

Please pay special attention to the medical section of the Application Form. STARTALK program staff need to be aware of any medical issues your child may have. Students requiring medication must bring the medication to the program each day and must be able to self-administer (under adult supervision). Please complete and sign the special permission form for students bringing medication to the program.

XIV.) Field Trip:

The field trip is scheduled for Friday, July 6. There is no fee for the field trip.

XV.) STARTALK Surveys:

The STARTALK program is federally grant funded and, as such, is required to collect student participation data. The STARTALK central office kindly requests that all parents allow students in our program to participate in surveys about their participation in the program. STARTALK will keep your child's personal information confidential. All information collected by the surveys will be stored in a password-protected database. STARTALK will not include participant names in any published reports, media, or public discussions of STARTALK. Your child's name will be given a code for survey data. This code, instead of a name, will link your child's survey and identity. Only the researcher, you, and your child will be able to see this information. Once your child is admitted to the program, a separate PDF file (3 pages) will be sent to you, including a letter from STARTALK explaining this process and a survey consent form.

XVI.) Final Presentation for Parents:

Please mark your calendar! The last day of the program, Fri., July 13, will include a special final presentation for parents, in which students will present many of the things they have learned during the program. On July 13, parents will drop their students off as usual at 8:30 am. Parents are then invited to return for the presentation at 12:30pm. We will conclude all activities by 3:00pm. Parents unable to attend the presentation may pick up their children at the usual time (3:00pm).

XVII.) Program Video:

A special program video will be made, summarizing the highlights of your child's unique experience with STARTALK. A link to the video will be shared with you once it is completed after the program is concluded.

XIX.) Fall Extension Program:

A special fall extension program will be offered to a limited number of selected students. More information will follow at the end of the summer program.