

**Curriculum Guidelines**  
**Yale-New Haven Community Chinese School**  
**@ SCSU**

**I. General Teaching Objectives:**

The Yale-New Haven Community Chinese School @ SCSU is a non-profit organization registered in the state of Connecticut. Its mission is to teach Chinese language, traditional Chinese arts, and to elevate the awareness of Chinese culture in the community. The school sets its goal to enhance students' Chinese language skills as a second language.

The School admits students, conducts all educational programs and activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, ancestry or disabilities.

Since the teaching strategies for the students with Chinese language background (referred students from Chinese heritage families hereafter) and without Chinese language background (referred as students from non-Chinese heritage hereafter) are different, we design two tracks for those two types in their low level class. Eventually the students from both tracks should be combined together in the middle and high level.

For the students from Chinese heritage families, the school designs a curriculum that would allow students to interact their 2-hour weekly school work with their virtual use and practice of the language at home under the guidance of parents. Besides language learning, the school also endeavors to help students become acquainted with Chinese culture.

For the students from non-Chinese heritage families, the School offers a different track of classes, to allow these students to learn the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Chinese.

Our purpose is to help students learn Chinese as a practical communication skill, and develop a life-long appreciation for the Chinese language and culture; therefore, this curriculum sets the benchmarks for the school teaching practice.

**II. Proficiency Levels Structures:**

**(I) Three proficiency levels for Chinese heritage students:**

- Elementary Proficiency (for Grade 1-4)
- Intermediate Proficiency (for Grade 5-8)
- Advanced Proficiency (for Grade 9-12)

**(II) One Proficiency level for non-Chinese heritage students:**

- Elementary Proficiency (For Grade 1-4)
- Each grade consists of 2 semesters of 30 hours each

- Total class hours: 30/semester and 60/academic year

### **III. Curriculum Description for Each Level**

#### **1. Elementary Chinese:**

**a. Pinyin: Students are able to**

- Differentiate between vowels and consonants.
- Spell correctly with the assistance of pinyin.
- Write in pinyin when they hear a character syllable and mark with correct tones.

**b. Character Writing:**

- Read 800 characters of which they are able to write 500 characters, with proper way of holding pens, following correct stroke orders

**c. Listening and Speaking:**

- Able to speak fluently on daily subject matters with correct words, phrases, and grammar
- Able to express their feelings and ideas in simple terms.
- Able to understand the basic daily communication
- Able to tell a simple story and retell the story logically.

**d. Reading:**

- Students are trained to read passages written using 200-300 characters.
- Reading exercises include reading aloud practice.
- recite from memory no less than 20 material texts in the format of dialogues, short narrative, lyrics, and ballads
- The total reading amount about 40000 words (600/week)

**e. Writing:**

- Learn to write in Chinese characters, to express in writing.
- Able to write a daily note using characters, with occasional pinyin assistance if necessary.

**f. Dictionary**

- Able to use common radicals to look up new Chinese characters
- Able to understand the basic definition of new Chinese characters

#### **2. Intermediate Chinese:**

**a. Characters:**

- Students should acquire about 1500 characters, while being able to write 1000 characters by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> level.

**b. Dictionary:**

--They are able to use a dictionary, finding a word definition both by using pinyin and radicals. And differentiate the functions of characters phonetically similar and characters with multiple phonations.

**c. Listening and Speaking:**

-- Students are able to watch a Chinese movie, TV drama  
-- Able to understand a formal lecture in Chinese on a subject  
-- Able to express fluently personal feeling, opinions, and have the language skill to consult and discuss with people on related issues.

**d. Reading:** Students are expected to be able:

--Read essays, articles, and stories written with the 800 basic character  
--Figure out the meaning of a new word based in contexts  
--Understand the gist of a text  
-- Read a text fluently, with appropriate emotional variations  
-- Cultivate the habit of doing pre-class quiz, after-class exercises and reading  
-- Memorize no less than 20 model essays  
-- Total reading amount no less than 90000 words (About 1000 words a week)

**e. Writing:**

-- Write fluently one's experience, ideas, opinions, and feeling.  
-- Use punctuation marks correctly  
-- Able to write diary, letters, announcements  
-- Writing assignments no less than 12 per year

**3. Advanced Chinese:**

**a. Pinyin: Able to type characters using pinyin input**

**b. Characters:**

--Recognize about 2500 character.  
-- Able to write 2000 characters.  
-- Acquire the ability to guess the meaning of a character by examining its structures

**c. Able to use dictionaries to assist reading**

**d. Listening and Speaking:**

-- Able to understand news, media report, academic lectures and formal speeches.  
-- Able to retell a formal lecture.  
-- With minimal preparation, able to make a brief speech in public

**e. Reading:**

-- Able to read articles and essays on more difficult topics, such as politics, social issues.  
-- Able to examine and analyze the structure of a writing;

- Refine the reading aloud skills.
- Able to read aloud a text fluently without preview
- Able to read silently with speed, no less than 200 words/minute
- Able to read newspapers, internet articles, and captures the gist of a text quickly.
- Able to research materials on a subject matter.
- Total reading amount no less than 160000 characters (2000 words weekly)

**f. Writing:**

- Write in various styles: including narration, descriptions, and expository;
- Able to write letters, reading report, work report, application letter, with appropriate substance in terms of structure, content, and sentence coherence
- Able to finish an essay of 1000 character within the limit of 50 minutes