

Southeastern Connecticut Chinese School Course Descriptions

SUMMARY

Over the past decades, SCCS' dedicated teachers, supportive parents and active students have formed a cooperative community of teaching and learning, and obtained strong supports from East Lyme School Public Schools and other schools in Connecticut to implement open door policy that has attracted more and more students from different nations.

With the wave of globalization permeates every corner of the world today, SCCS needs a new vision and new curricula rum to develop true bilinguals as well as other knowledge to help students prepare for their future.

In addition to the Chinese language classes, SCCS offers different levels of math, technology, and a variety of artistic and cultural classes in music, arts, dance, chess, sports and more. These courses help a better understanding of Chinese cultural heritage and values. Through these classes, students gain respect and tolerance for diverse cultures in our society, and build confidence and self esteem in themselves.

Teaching Principle and Educational Goal

SCCS Chinese language class focuses on basic communication skills including listening, speaking, reading and writing. The classes focus on teaching functional usage of Chinese to students who learn Chinese as a second language. Students of all levels must demonstrate ability to use Chinese language in functional application. SCCS also prepares students to achieve high marks on Chinese AP and SAT exam.

SCCS uses the "500 +3" plan as bases for curriculum design. In the nine-year study period, students are required to recognize, read, write, and use 500 Chinese characters. Students will write at least one essay, participate at minimum once in Chinese Speech Contest, and read at least one text.

Education Plan - "Chinese" Text Series

SCCS uses the text "Chinese" published by Ji Nan University. In grades 1 - 4, students complete one book in the series and pass the final exam. In grade 5 and above, students are divided into 2 tracks. Track A students are required to continue the completion of the material in one book every year and passing of the exam. Track B students continue the study of "Chinese" text at a pace appropriate for the class.

In general, Track A students have one of the follow aspiration: motivation to learn Chinese at a more intensive pace, want to study for AP and SAT testing, want to receive local high school course credit, or want to pursuit a career in a bilingual environment, want to become exchange professionals between China and U.S.

Track B students must have one of the following qualities: have personal goal to understand communication in Chinese, want to develop conversational skills, able to gain interest to learn Chinese from an interactive learning environment, or plan to enter Track A class in future.

Course Descriptions

Chinese Language

Lower Level: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Learn pin yin, 500 character recognition, 250 vocabulary words. Students will be able to communicate in daily conversation. Students will have the foundation of the language.

Kindergarten, age 4-5

Material: Selected by individual teachers

Kindergarten class uses many children songs, stories and rhymes to teach listening, reading, speaking skills. Every week, the students learn the simple vocabulary words through singing, story-telling and game-playing in an engaging interactive environment. Goal: Students will be able to recognize 150 characters, write common radicals using correct stroke order, memorize and recite 20-30 children songs, retell stories in their own words.

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 1

Text: "Chinese" Level 1 by Ji Nan University

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 1 class is focused on nurturing students' interest to learn Chinese by incorporating interactive lessons. The students will develop listening, speaking, recognizing and writing abilities. The students will learn to write Chinese characters using proper stroke order. The

teacher will introduce stories, children songs and puzzles to enhance learning. Goal: Students will be able to recognize 150 characters, write 100 characters, and read entire "Chinese" Level 1 text.

Chinese Grade 2

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 2 reinforces correct stroke order, recognition of character radicals. Students will gain vocabulary and learn pin yin. Students will read stories and tell stories from pictures. The Chinese traditions will be incorporated in the teaching. Goal: Students will be able to recognize 150 characters, write 90 characters, and read entire "Chinese" Level 2 Text.

Chinese Grade 3

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 3 is focused on reading comprehension and writing. Students will learn and apply common sentence pattern. Students will use dictionary to aid writing. The class will incorporate Chinese culture into topics of discussion to nurture interest for learning Chinese language. Goal: Students will be able to recognize 150 characters, write 80 characters, read entire "Chinese" Level 3 Text.

Mid Level (4-6 grade)

Recognize 900 characters, 400 vocabularies, learn to type in Chinese, reading comprehension, and writing composition

Chinese Grade 4

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 4 continues to develop reading and writing abilities. Students will learn and apply the use of verbs, quantity words and possessive pronouns. Students will practice writing composition with observable details. Students will continue using dictionary to read with increase speed and accuracy. Students are expected to read 1-2 extracurricular reading material every week. Students are expected to be active participants in class.

Chinese Grade 5 intensive

Classroom language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 5 Intensive class emphasizes verbal expression and interpersonal communication skills. Students are expected to read 1-2 extracurricular reading material every week. Students will learn to compose and type emails and short essays.

Chinese Grade 5 General

Classroom Language: Chinese $\geq 70\%$; English $\leq 30\%$

Chinese Grade 5 General class focuses on listening comprehension. The class incorporates Chinese culture to engage students' interests to learn Chinese.

Chinese Grade 6 Intensive

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 6 Intensive class reinforces language skills acquired from previous Chinese class. The class focuses on writing composition and reading comprehension. Students will be able to communicate in daily conversation fluently.

Chinese Grade 6 General

Classroom Language: Chinese $\geq 70\%$; English $\leq 30\%$

Chinese Grade 6 General class focuses on interpersonal communication skills. Students will develop understanding about characters, vocabulary and sentences. The class will incorporate interactive lessons to encourage participation and engage interests

Advanced Level (grade 7 and above)

Systematically increase reading comprehension, absorb variety of reading material, and increase language functional ability. Students will prepare for AP and SAT by recognize 1000 characters and 500 vocabulary words.

Chinese Grade 7 Intensive

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese Grade 7 Intensive class focuses the use of language to describe complex things and function in real-life situations. Students will develop writing ability to prepare for AP and SAT. Students will learn Chinese culture topics including geography, current events, history and more.

Chinese Grade 7 General

Classroom Language: Chinese $\geq 70\%$; English $\leq 30\%$

Chinese Grade 7 General focuses on conversational fluency. The class incorporates interesting topics to engage students' interest in learning Chinese.

AP/SAT II

Material: Selected by individual teachers

Classroom Language: Chinese

Chinese AP and SAT II class discusses question techniques to exam structures. Students will take mock exams and review questions as preparation.

Business Chinese

Classroom Language: Chinese

Business Chinese class uses visual and auditory authentic material to teach current events. Students will develop formal conversational skills by using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure.

- **Chinese as Second Language (CSL)**
Prerequisite: None

Textbook: My First Chinese Book

This class is designed for young beginners (5-8 years old) from non-Chinese speaking families to build basic listening and speaking capabilities with emphasis on correct pronunciation of four tones. The textbook for this class is My First Chinese Words series, including 36 easy to read short story books. These stories contain meaningful sentence structures, teaching students to communicate in full sentences, not memorizing individual characters. Students will learn over 150 words covering 22 topics from a child's world, such as family, friends, food, animals, home, school and etc. The accompanying Audio CD allows children to hear the correct pronunciation of words.

English Language

■ SAT Reading/Writing Prep Course (English)

Description of Class:

- ◆ The Learning Consultants has a well developed methodology designed to maximize test scores. Regarding SAT reading and writing, The Learning Consultants will provide a series of seminar based lectures on our patented best practices for reading comprehension, sentence completions, vocabulary development, grammar, essay writing, answering strategy, and optimal performance. These lectures form the foundation of the test prep teaching that has led to exceptional results for our clients. Subsequent classes will be designed for advanced coaching to ensure proper application of these techniques along with practice testing/scoring/reviewing of problem sets.

Math Curriculum

SCCS Math curriculum is aimed to provide students with a supplement learning opportunity in Math. The classes are designed to strength student's understanding of math concepts and to enhance their math skills. The teachers achieve the goal through review of the grade appropriate math contents and practice at the class. Additional practices will be assigned as homework.

SCCS use Spectrum Math series for Math classes Grade 3 to 6. Developed by experts in the field of education, each title in the Spectrum workbook series offers grade-appropriate instruction and reinforcement in an effective sequence for learning success. At the beginning of each academic year, the teacher in each grade will have a pre-test to assess the students' true math levels and may adjust each student's grade level accordingly.

SCCS offer three more Math classes – Pre-Algebra, Algebra and Math Count, for those students who are passionate about learning Math. Pre-Algebra is designed to prepare students for the study of algebra by reviewing and practicing the important math concepts and skills necessary for learning Algebra. Algebra is designed as equivalence to algebra I at regular schools. This class will be appropriate for students who are taking algebra I at schools and would like to improve their problem solving skills, or for students who have finished algebra I but want to review the concepts and prepare for more advanced math courses. Math Count will provide students with the guided practice of typical problems in Math Count Competition.

In addition, SCCS collaborates with the Learning Consultants Group to offer PSAT Math and SAT Math test prep classes for those high school students who are preparing to take PSAT and SAT tests. These classes are taught by experts from the Learning Consultants Group. Past PSAT and SAT test questions are used for students' to practice in the classes and the teachers will provide students with guidance of test strategies and with review of important relevant math concepts and knowledge.

For more information of the contents of each SCCS Math courses, please click the hyperlinks below.

Contents_of_SCCS_Math

Grade_3_Curriculum

- Chapter 1-Adding and Subtracting 1 and 2 Digit Numbers (with renaming)
- Chapter 2-Numberation through 100,000
- Chapter 3- Adding and Subtracting 2 and 3 Digit Numbers (with renaming)
- Chapter 4- Adding and Subtraction to 4 Digits (with renaming)
- Chapter 5- Multiplying through 2 Digits by 1 Digit

Chapter 6- Division Facts through $81/9$
Chapter 7- Fractions
Chapter 8- Customary Measurement
Chapter 9- Metric Measurement
Chapter 10- Money, Time and Calendar
Chapter 11- Graphs and Probability
Chapter 12- Geometry
Chapter 13- Preparing for Algebra

Grade_4_Curriculum

Chapter 1- Adding and Subtracting 1 and 2 Digits
Chapter 2- Numeration through 1,000,000
Chapter 3- Adding and Subtracting 3 through 5 Digits
Chapter 4- Multiplying through 3 Digits by 2 Digits
Chapter 5- Division Facts through $81/9$
Chapter 6- Dividing 2 and 3 Digits by 1 Digit
Chapter 7- Fractions, Decimals, and Money
Chapter 8- Customary Measurement
Chapter 9- Metric Measurement
Chapter 10- Graphs and Probability
Chapter 11- Geometry
Chapter 12- Preparing for Algebra

Grade_5_Curriculum

Chapter 1- Adding and Subtracting through 6 Digits
Chapter 2- Multiplying through 4 Digits by 3 Digits
Chapter 3- Dividing through 5 Digits by 2 Digits
Chapter 4- Understanding Fractions
Chapter 5- Adding Fractions
Chapter 6- Subtracting Fractions
Chapter 7- Multiplying Fractions
Chapter 8- Dividing Fractions
Chapter 9- Customary Measurement
Chapter 10- Metric Measurement
Chapter 11- Graphs and Probability

Chapter 12- Geometry

Chapter 13- Preparing for Algebra

Grade_6_Curriculum

Chapter 1- Adding and Subtracting through 6 Digits

Chapter 2- Multiplying and Dividing Whole Numbers

Chapter 3- Understanding Fractions

Chapter 4- Adding and Subtracting Fractions

Chapter 5- Multiplying and Dividing Fractions

Chapter 6- Adding and Subtracting Decimals

Chapter 7- Multiplying and Dividing Decimals

Chapter 8- Finding Percents

Chapter 9- Customary Measurement

Chapter 10- Metric Measurement

Chapter 11- Probability and Statistics

Chapter 12- Geometry

Chapter 13- Preparing for Algebra

Pre_Algebra

This course is designed for students who enjoy math and who have completed an elementary school (grades 1-6) math curriculum. Pre-Algebra exposes students to a wide variety of mathematical topics taught from a problem solving perspective. Pre-Algebra includes a thorough exploration, review, and practice of the fundamentals of arithmetic, including fractions, exponents, and decimals. The teacher will introduce beginning topics in number theory and algebra, including common divisors and multiples, primes and prime factorizations, basic equations and inequalities, and ratios. The teacher may also include subjects from geometry, especially subjects that further understanding of algebra in applications to area and volume.

Algebra

In this class, majority of the time will be devoted to problem solving rather than teaching new knowledge. The course will follow closely what students are learning at regular schools. In the beginning, a quick review of pre-algebra will be provided, and then the class will advance to algebra topics shown below.

- Functions;

- Linear equations;
- Inequalities and linear inequalities;
- Systems of linear equations;
- System of linear inequalities
- Exponential functions;
- Quadratic functions.

Math_Count

Math counts class is prepared for students attending 7th and 8th grade. This course covers arithmetic, mathematics, algebra, and geometry (some contents may be beyond the middle school level). The student will use this knowledge to solve complex word problems. During the first semester, each of these subjects will be reviewed, and during the second semester, past Math counts competition tests will be used as the teaching material for practice (homework) and illustration (in-class).

Technology

TechnoKids (To Be Updated)

Globalization

(To Be Updated)

Art

■ **Beginner Art A**

This beginners art course is designed towards students from ages 3-5 that have little to no drawing experience.

It will be an interactive lesson where one picture will be drawn per class with step by step instruction. Individual help will also be given. The class will be very flexible and comfortable, taking in the children's opinions. We will cover drawing different subjects from different topics as well as perspective and coloring. In the case of a special holiday, there might be card making or another fun craft.

■ **Beginner Art B**

Starting with the basic drawing techniques including basic shapes, ratio, proportion and three-dimensional combined with colors, this course is designed to develop students' interest in drawing via plenty of hands-on practices in the class. Students will develop their imaginations based on the basic shapes and colors. Samples and the demo drawings will be given at the beginning of each class. The students will then draw on

their own pace with the helps of the instructor and the teaching assistant.

■ **Academic Art 1**

Academic Art Class is intended to those who have basic drawing and painting knowledge and techniques at age 10 or above. Teaching will focus on training students the 3-D sense, artistic forms of the object, relations between lighting and coloring and other drawing and painting (watercolor) skills. \$20 per student for the schooling year is required for covering material cost. This payment is due on the first day of the class.

■ **Academic Art 2**

Academic Art Class is intended to those who have basic drawing and painting knowledge and techniques at age 10 or above. Teaching will focus on training students the 3-D sense, artistic forms of the object, relations between lighting and coloring and other drawing and painting (watercolor) skills. \$20 per student for the schooling year is required for covering material cost. This payment is due on the first day of the class.

■ **Sumi Ink Painting 1**

Experience the traditional approach to Chinese Water-color. Focus on the philosophy of translating your inner energy through the brush and onto the rice paper. Learn to apply varying degrees of ink or color for maximum depth, creating simple compositions with the minimum of brush strokes.

\$30 Materials fee payable to instructor first day of each semester.

■ **Sumi Ink Painting 2**

Experience the traditional approach to Chinese Water-color. Focus on the philosophy of translating your inner energy through the brush and onto the rice paper. Learn to apply varying degrees of ink or color for maximum depth, creating simple compositions with the minimum of brush strokes.

\$30 Materials fee payable to instructor first day of each semester.

音乐课程(Music)

■ **Basic Violin**

This class is for the beginners. Students in the class will practice and learn violin together. The method of teaching is to lead students to read music notes by providing “Visual Clue” for the musical background instantly available to each Suzuki student. Students will learn fingering and bowing including down and up bows, slurs, staccato, loud and soft. The class also provides a lot of music for reading, solos, duets and rounds. Requirement:

Love to play violin or want to try;

Bring your own violin;

100 minutes /week practice after class.

■ **Chinese School Orchestra/Band**

Chinese School Orchestra/Band is for the advanced students who love to learn and play Chinese music using his/her own musical instruments. The mission for this class is to enhance the awareness of Chinese traditional and modern music to local communities, while the students are improving their skills. Chinese School Orchestra/Band will have opportunities to perform, such as at the local senior centers, Chinese New Year celebrations and Talent Show.

Requirements:

1. At least play his/her instrument for 3 years with private lessons;
2. Be able to bring the musical instrument to the class;
3. Minimum 100 minutes / week practice at home after the class.

■ **Guitar** (To Be Updated)

■ **Flute**

This class will be oriented towards all players under the age of 17. It will focus on technique, tone, and ensemble playing, with an emphasis on musical development. First, tone and intonation (and relevant ideas such as breath support) will be addressed since it is one of the more difficult aspects of the flute to master. Then other subjects will follow such as technique, rhythm, musicality, etc.

The two teachers, Nathan Zhao and Casey Li, will divide the class into two groups by ability, with Casey taking the higher level class and Nathan the lower level. The two separate classes will allow students to have an individualized curriculum as well as maximum time to interact with a teacher. Class size per teacher would best be around 10 individuals.

■ **Dance 1 –Beginner**

This is a dance class for beginners. It is designed to be highly interactive in order to enhance your child's self-confidence and his /her creative expression. Dance techniques are structured in a way appropriate to children's age so they can truly enjoy their learning experience in dancing. Themes of classes may change in accordance with the music, stories, costumes and props to encourage students' imagination and participation but the focus will be on Chinese folk dance. Classes are limited to 12 students.

■ **Dance 2 – Intermediate/Advanced level**

With the basic dancing skills, the students in this class will be trained in an advanced level for Chinese folk dance. Some live and popular children dance pieces will be

practiced throughout the semester.

■ **Chinese Chorus/Dance**

Students in this class will learn basic vocal techniques and practice singing as a choir. Some easy yet very popular Chinese songs for children will be introduced to the students and practiced during and outside of the class. The singing maybe combined with some light dancing. Boys and girls of 8 years and order are more appropriate for this class.

Others Courses

■ **Beginner Chess**

This class will be for students who have limited or no knowledge in the game. Students will learn the names of the pieces and how they move and attack. They will learn the basic principals of chess- proper development, controlling the center, castling, en passante and attacking and protecting. Students will learn the basic middlegame strategies such as pins, forks, discovered attacks, skewers, etc. They will also learn basic endgame strategies such as checkmate, stalemate, perpetual check, proper promotion and opposition.

■ **Advanced Chess**

Students will have a strong sense of all strategies and development of chess before entering this class. This class is for chess players with a few years experience. They will learn specialized openings for advanced play such as the Sicilian Dragon, Scotch and Alekhine defenses. Students will study middle game strategies, calculations, visualizations and other strategies to arrive at a winning endgame. They will study endgame possibilities and how to win or draw games that seem defeated. They will learn the names of many different mates and how to execute them such as the Arabian, Philidor's Legacy, Boden's, Blackburnes and Greco's mate.

■ **Kids Basketball**

The basketball class will be separated into two age groups. One teacher and one teaching assistant will be responsible for the two age groups. The objective of the class is to learn basketball basic skills and how to become an effective player in a team.

Group A - 10 and under (elementary school students).

Group B - above 10 (middle/high school students).

The class will focus on fundamental basketball skills (passing, shooting, and dribbling), strategy (working with teammates effectively) and game rules. The class will begin with warm-up exercise such as free shooting or some team activities. Students will then concentrate on one particular basketball skill or strategy each class, followed by extensive practice individually or in small groups. Students will have an opportunity to play scrimmage (~ 10 min) at the end of each class. Students will be graded upon their

skills set, basketball knowledge, efforts and class participation.

■ **Chinese WuShu**

The class will include free style fighting, karate, Chinese traditional Wushu, boxing, etc,. Starting from the basics, the focus of the first semester will include stretching, kicking, easy movements and forms, and weapon training (stick and sword) if possible. Students will learn the exercising aspect of martial arts and the best methods of systematic training, which is called “open the body” and will be good for doing all kinds of sports in the future.

Adult Education

■ Tai Chi

You will learn the basic Tai Chi exercising include basic skills, basic movements and basic routines. It needs 12 lessons. Every lesson will teach basic skills/movements, one new section of the routine and review old sections.

Simplified 24 Forms Tai Chi Quan is a national standard form. This form is suitable for a wide range of participants. There is no age, sex, nor health discrimination in the learning of this form. Students practice the form at their own ability, pace, and tempo. The form (stance height, power releases and stomping) will be adjusted individually to the student's health, age, and gender. Two classes may be offered: Adults class and teenage class.

Southeastern Connecticut Chinese School will update this catalog when necessary.