Great news – after a long hiatus during the pandemic, our Saturday Chinese lessons will be resuming this Fall! Open registration is taking place now!



Frequently Asked Questions



- **How should I choose the course level for my child?**
  如何知道孩子该报哪个班呢?

  Beyond ages 3-6, courses are organized by Chinese language reading/writing levels, not by age or by Chinese verbal skill levels. For example, if your 3rd grader is fluent verbally in Chinese but is new to Chinese reading and writing, you should register your child for the Level 1 (not Level 3) course.

- **Can you explain the quarter structure for lessons and tuition?**
  可否解释一下课程和学费在学季制里的安排?
  - Lessons are designed to continue throughout the entire school year, but for convenience of tuition payments, the school year is divided into Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters (each 10 weeks long). **Again, each quarter's lessons represent new material, and are NOT a repetition of the previous quarter's lessons.**
  - **We highly recommend that new students joining the Level 1 course should begin with Fall quarter.** PinYin (the Chinese phonetic alphabet) is taught in the Level 1 course and needs to be learned in a systematic way, leading to knowledge gaps if a student doesn't begin with the Fall quarter.
  - **Aside from the Level 1 course, new students are welcome to join at any point during the school year as long as seats are available.** As Chinese characters are learned individually, students can still keep up with the material even if they haven't learned the characters from prior quarters' lessons.
  - Tuition pricing can be found at school website: https://www.washingtoninternationalschool.com/programs/saturday-chinese-lesson.

- **What levels of classes are available?**
  目前开设了哪些班级?
  - The current classes are listed at **our school website**.
  - More classes will be arranged as the students progress every year.
  - If your child's Chinese level is **higher than above**, please email me as soon as possible. We will do our best to open the higher level classes for you! The required minimum number for each class is 3 students. Please encourage your child's friends to join the class together. Children always learn better when they have friends attending the same class – it is more fun!

- **What are the differences between Level 1 and Pre-K classes?**
  一年级和学前班的区别是什么?

  Both Pre-K and Level-1 are for beginners. The differences are -
  - **Pre-K courses** are specifically designed for children ages 3-6, occasionally accepting children slightly below age 3 if they can follow lesson instructions. Children will learn Chinese vocabulary and some basic Chinese characters. Most young children stay in pre-K courses for 2-3 years before moving up to Level 1 courses; the lesson plans for our pre-K course change every year, so there is always new material for the children to learn! Designed to be fun and engaging for young children, this course incorporates stories, kids' songs, and crafts into the lessons. We aim to cultivate our young children's interest in learning Chinese, begin developing healthy study habits, and build a solid foundation for Level 1 courses.
  - **Level 1 and above courses** are designed for children age 7 and above, occasionally accepting children age 6 under special circumstances (requiring parental oversight and assistance). While the lessons still incorporate fun and age-appropriate material for children, there is daily homework, weekly quiz, and a final exam each quarter. Given the frequent language practice and self-discipline required for these courses, as well as the fine motor skills required to accurately write Chinese characters, in our experience children below age 6 are seldom ready for such diligent work.

- **What textbooks do you use?**
  请问用什么教材?
  - For Level-1 and above – We use 《中文》by Jinan University.
  - For Pre-K, the textbooks vary every school year as most young children will attend the same class for 2-3 years.



- **Do you teach traditional or simplified Chinese characters?**
  请问教繁体字还是简体字?

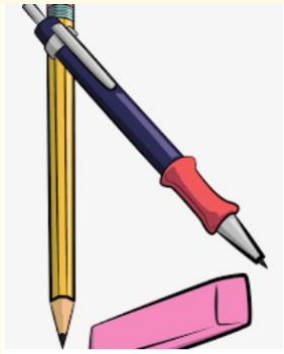
  At the children's level, most characters are the same in both traditional and simplified Chinese. For example, the characters for "dad" (爸爸) are the same in both versions.

  When there is a difference, such as the characters for "mom" (妈妈 vs. 媽媽), the textbook has the simplified Chinese version in the lesson, but also lists the traditional version as a reference, so if any families prefer to have their children learn the traditional version, they can.

  Realistically, learning the traditional version of the characters won't be the best use of time of most children. Learning Chinese characters is hard work and can frankly be very boring, until enough vocabulary is accumulated to read or write short stories/pieces – then it becomes fun and useful! Our goal as educators is to help students learn an array of Chinese characters **as quickly as possible**, to keep them engaged and to prevent them from losing interest and momentum! Although the traditional characters may look more elegant, in our experience there are better learned (if the family desires) after at least a basic reading level is achieved.

- **What does my child need to bring to school?**
  请问上学要带什么东西?

  a) Textbook and practice books
  b) Pencils (sharpened), at least 2
  c) Eraser
  d) Water bottle filled with water, in case getting thirsty

  Note: No food or drinks are allowed in the building, except water.

- **How to register?**
  如何报名注册?

  To register, please download the registration form at:
  https://www.washingtoninternationalschool.com/programs/saturday-chinese-lesson.

  Email the completed form to info@WashingtonInternationalSchool.com . A clear phonto will be fine, but please do not shrink the photo size; or else it will be too blurry. We will reply with payment information. For maximal convenience, payments are conducted through Zelle.

- **I have more questions. Who should I contact?** –
  若有其它想问的问题，该联系哪里呢?

  Please email info@WashingtonInternationalSchool.com and we will be happy to assist!