

# **University of Virginia Star Talk Chinese Teacher Academy**

Cover page

Wei Yuan

I was born in Xi'an, China and growing up there taught me a lot about the culture and history of such a large country. My parents both worked for a University in northern China, my Father and Mother were both teachers. I feel like they taught me a great respect for teachers and how important they were. Basically my whole life I wanted to be an educator. I love being with students and seeing them succeed and grow. I have a great deal of passion for teaching Chinese and Music. Teaching Chinese has taught me to have a more open mind. I have become a much more diversified teacher since I started teaching Chinese. I was very excited when I got the news that I was going to be a part of the Startalk program. This summer has expanded my teaching skills a great deal and I feel more enriched by attending this fine program.

---

## Summary

---

During the Startalk classes that I attended this summer I learned a lot especially from doing the hands on activities. I feel that every student is unique and they need to have every chance to learn with the group in their own way. I feel that the daily use of the 5 Cs (communication, culture, connection, comparison, community) is very important to help the students understand how and why they are learning the material covered. I understand how important it is to use the target language during class to get the students to think instead of being parrots or copy machines. Being in such a historical place in Virginia reminded me of back home in Xi'an, it is also a very historical city. Culture is closely tied to language and its foundations. The skills and tools I have learned this summer will stay with me for the rest of my life and I will work diligently to use them in my daily teaching routines.