

My name is Grace Paul, I have been teaching Chinese for more than twenty years. I first started teaching Chinese in a heritage school then became a K-12 teacher. Few years ago, I came to Solon Schools District in Ohio and started building the Chinese program. Almost every year I have a new course to build. In the coming school year the AP course will be a new preparation to me.

Being the major Chinese teacher in a school district for so many years is a great challenge. First, it is a lonely journey, there is not much support from other world language teachers. Second, the teacher needs to cover a wide range of students and travels between buildings. Therefore, I seek up the opportunity to participate in professional development programs so I can learn about best practices in teaching Chinese and also meet other Chinese teachers to share their experiences and support.

I am so glad that I can be part of the UVa STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy, I have learned a lot from Professor Tseng, two practicum teachers and other participating teachers during these three weeks in UVa. Not only have I gained more in depth understanding about student-center classroom, the Integrated Performance Assessment, Lingua Folio, flip classroom, but also student-center communicative activities. Through practicum and receiving critiques from others are also helpful in shaping my teaching methods in a better way. I definitely will bring back what I have learned in here to my classrooms and keep growing professionally.