

2017 Virginia Startalk Chinese Teacher Academy

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Cover page

I began my Chinese teaching career in weekend Chinese school, where I taught for years before I started the Chinese program in Arlington Heights School District 25 in 2007. Building the program from the ground up, I designed the curriculum, chose the textbooks and recruited students to the new program. I also assisted the program with an expansion to elementary schools, mentoring the new teachers and consulting on the development of the program. In 2011, I collaborated with my World Language department colleagues to design a standards-based curriculum and implement performance-based assessments. This upcoming school year, I am very excited to start a new Mandarin exploratory program in middle schools of Woodstock Community Unit School District 200.

Outside of the classroom, I have also worked to develop initiatives that would immerse my students in Chinese language and culture, deepening their desire to study Chinese. I have taken students and parents on cultural and educational trips to China in 2012, 2014 and 2016. My students even got a chance to meet with First Lady Michelle Obama during our 2014 trip when she was visiting China at the same time as our students. I believe these travel experiences have enhanced my students' learning.

Confucius said, "Teach all children, no matter if they are poor or rich." This is the principle that guides my teaching. I believe that a teacher should give their best effort to every child that comes into the classroom and not categorize their students. I also interpret it to mean that teachers need to teach to individual differences. We all know every single student is unique and everyone has his/her strengths. As a teacher, we need to be able to see their strengths and encourage the students to develop their potential. Also, I think it is important to inspire students to be curious, acquiring different knowledge inside and outside of the classrooms. As a World Language teacher, I have a lot of opportunities to provide students with different views of world events or cultural differences. Hopefully, this will broaden students' worldview and lead to a successful future.

I am an enthusiastic and hard-working educator with a real passion for teaching. I enjoy being a teacher and confronting the various challenges that you inevitably encounter in the classroom. Through my work teaching a World language, I believe I can help inspire students to see a different world through language and culture.