

I fell in love with Chinese teaching and decided to pursue it as a career after teaching (including tutoring) Chinese for two years to college students and adults. The graduate program at Middlebury College and Monterey Institute provided me with a solid base in Chinese pedagogy and linguistic knowledge, and I was soon offered a wonderful opportunity to start the Chinese language program at an independent school from grade 8 to 12. It is a lot of fun to work with younger kids but also a big challenge to transform their energy and curiosity into effective learning opportunities. Moreover, being the very first and only Chinese teacher at school, many times I am my own problem solver and cheerleader, and I am constantly searching for professional development opportunities to better help myself plan the standard-based curriculum and performance-based assessment for my current program. The 2010 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy program offered me a wonderful opportunity to empower myself with stronger skills and more effective techniques in curriculum design and lesson plan, and more importantly, in the use of target language in class. I appreciate the chance to learn from experts and other experienced teachers in the same field who are as passionate and as proud of themselves as I am myself, in serving, at each of their schools and communities, as the bridge between two languages and cultures.