

My name is Xia Li. I am certified Chinese teacher in Pennsylvania. I have been teaching Chinese in Philadelphia schools for three years. Being a Chinese teacher, I really want my students to not only like my classes but also the language and culture of China.

I always wanted to be a teacher, even before I came to America. During my early years in the US, I thought I would never be able to teach as I could not speak English fluently, but my passion for teaching was always with me. In 2006, I went back to school and got my teaching certificate.

I am currently teaching in Horace Howard Furness High School, a neighborhood high school in south Philadelphia. Most of my students are from economic under privilege families. Making the students engage is a big challenge.

I firmly believe that learning Chinese will benefit my students not because they will use the language later on in their life, rather the learning process will make them more intelligent, more desipline, and more open minded. When teaching, I try to connect the Chinese with students' world, connecting language and culture with their language and culture.

I am constantly improving myself by attending professional development programs such ACFEL conferences, STARTALK programs and others. I am also learning from my students. They had taught me a lot through out my teaching career. I am hoping I can bring what I learned here back to my classroom.