

我叫孔宇宁,我上 STEM 中学八年级。Learning Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture at the NIHFF STEM Middle School has been an amazing experience. During the past two years, I have learned many, many things while taking Chinese and I have pushed myself to do better and learn something new every day. I have also learned Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture in many different ways. The two main ways I learn Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture are through collaboration with other students and doing projects.

First, collaboration with other students has been a major way I learn Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture. Having conversations in Chinese with my classmates has helped my conversational skills improve a drastic amount. Conversations with classmates also simulate real-life situations where I would have conversations in Chinese with future business partners or just for fun. Collaboration with classmates also makes learning more interesting and fun because it allows us to work together to solve problems and advance our knowledge in Chinese. When we are given a problem or sentence in Chinese we need to solve, the class works together to find the meaning or solution to the problem or sentence. Finally, collaboration allows us to all learn at a constant rate so every student understands the criteria taught and can be the best grades possible. That is why collaboration has been a major way I learn Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture.



中国朋友们好,我很快乐,我最喜欢我们的中国新年。我复习我们的跳舞。我最喜欢学中文。我爱梁老师。我喜欢看中文的书。我想在大学学中文。我想将来学很多中国的东西和中文,我知道中国新年,中秋节,中国菜(真的好吃!)和说中文。我真的想今年夏天去中国,可是,中国病了。我爱中国新年。中国新年真的美。对不起我的中文不好。谢谢! 贾平鸽



我叫王爱玲,我上 STEM 中学八年级。For the past two years, I have been learning Mandarin Chinese at the National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM Middle School, and it has been one of the best experiences I have had there. Every time when I walk in that class, I challenge myself to walk out knowing something new, whether that be how to write a new character or a new piece of information about the culture; as a result, I have acquired an abundance of knowledge about both the Chinese language, but also the culture, regardless of it be through the projects that I have done or through what Liang laoshi teaches me.

One of the ways I have learned about the Chinese language and culture is through the large number of projects we have done; for example, when the class was on a unit about food and drink, the project we had to make some of the traditional Chinese foods, such as rice, dumplings, egg rolls, noodles, almond cookies, 大包, and many more, ourselves. Personally, this was one of my favorites because it not only gave me the opportunity to cook these foods, but we also learned what each of the different foods meanings; for example, the noodles represent longevity, and the dumplings represent wealth because they look like Ancient China's currency. Another one of the projects that I learned a lot from was the Chinese New Year project. During that project, we learned about the traditional dances that are performed, what is eaten during that time of the year and why, what people do to prepare for the New Year, and how people decorate for the New Year; after we learned all that,



我叫孔然然,我是美国人,我十六岁,我上 STEM 高中十一年级,我家有三口人,他们是爸爸和妈妈,我没有兄弟姐妹。我们住在俄亥俄州阿克伦市,我的爸爸是工程师,妈妈是经理。3 年前我去了中国。我喜欢说中文,因为我喜欢学习新语言。I have been learning Chinese for about 3 years. I enjoy learning Chinese for a multitude of reasons, the main reason is because on my bucket list is to visit every single country at least once, this means learning some variation of communication in each language. Learning Chinese worked out very well because China happened to be the first of the 195 countries that I am visiting. I was in China for two-weeks. Of these two-weeks I spent five of the days in the Chinese capital, Beijing, and the other nine days were spent in Kunming-the city of flowers. I was able to try the food with a group of people who would soon become my friends, we ate food like fish, duck, rice-tots of rice-, noodles, and what me and the others called "fried air", "fried air" is actually Chinese fried dough or Youtiao, but we called it "fried air" because of its



Second, projects have also been a major way I learn Chinese. For example, Writing a small story allowed me to put what I have learned language-wise into context and write a story. We did a project where we had to cook food and bring it into class. This project allowed me to find out Chinese meanings to certain foods like noodles and dumplings. The biggest project which was also a performance, the Chinese New Year project, helped me learn the 12 zodiacs and their meanings, and also many things that mean good luck in China. It also improved my knowledge of Mandarin Chinese by knowing how to ask Chinese New Year related questions and how to respond to them. The performances taught me the symbolic meanings that some dances have to Chinese culture. All of the things I have learned based on what I did in projects have drastically improved my knowledge in Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture.

Collaboration with other students and doing projects are the two main ways I learn Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture. Collaboration with other students allows me to solve problems quicker, have better conversation skills, and become more fluent in Mandarin Chinese. Doing projects has improved my knowledge of Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture all around and it especially helps me find out meanings and special cultural aspects of China. Overall, Projects and collaboration have been the two main and most efficient ways I learn Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture. 孔宇宁

we got the opportunity to decorate our school from the knowledge that we have; thus, this was a project that I learned a lot about the culture from. Overall, I have gained an abundance of knowledge about Chinese culture through the projects I have done. The other way I have learned Chinese is from Liang laoshi. She has helped me the most with the way that I learn Chinese because of the way she teaches is very efficient; When we are learning a new unit, she starts off with the unit by giving us a few of our new words a day, each with pinyin and gestures to help us remember the words. Eventually, we would reach the point where we would have learned all of the new words, and after that, she would slowly strip away the pinyin and start showing us characters only; at that point, we would now know all of our new words. Additionally, once the unit is over, we are still constantly reviewing the words every day. This method of teaching has helped me tremendously because there would never be a moment where we would learn something and then move on to the next topic without touching on what we learned again. In conclusion, the way that Liang laoshi teaches us is how I learn the Chinese language.

I have learned a great deal about the Chinese culture and language while with Liang laoshi. Not only has Liang laoshi been teaching me about culture just in class, but also out of class with the projects that we do. If it was not for her and the opportunities that she has given us both in and out of class, and without her, I would not have the amazing experience I am having right now. Overall, I have learned a lot about Chinese culture thanks to everything that Liang laoshi has taught me. 王爱玲

light airy look, chewy and crunchy texture, its light brown color, its sweet taste, and because when a piece fell off the table it didn't instantly drop it floated down slowly, allowing me to catch it before it hit the ground. My favorite food, without a doubt was the "fried air" it was like chicken nuggets without the chicken inside. I have a great time when Chinese New Year comes around. Chinese New Year lasts for 15 days and is on a different day every year; every year there is a different one of the 12 zodiacs. The Chinese zodiac derives from ancient china and it is similar to the American horoscope, in the sense that there are 12 months so 12 horoscopes there just so happens to be 12 years in the Chinese zodiac cycle. The culture and experience during Chinese New Year is amazing, you eat special food, you get to see your entire family, and your parents give you (红包) red envelopes that contain money, and the best part of the Chinese New Year is that you get to clean your house and decorate it with beautiful paintings, hang lanterns, you yourself paint paintings, set off fireworks, get loud and just have fun. 孔然然

# 难忘 STEM 中学的中国新年



过了正月十五年就过完了,虽然 2020 年新年因为武汉新冠肺炎疫情给整个中国人面临各种考验,不过我在克利夫兰还是参加了三个很有意义的中国新年,活动办得非常喜庆。特别是 2 月 7 日,参加了 Akron STEM 学校庆祝中国新年活动,这位在中文教育 11 年的上海老乡梁晴让我汗颜。我走进 Akron STEM 校园,走廊墙上展示的是中国的对联灯笼,甚至电梯上都贴满了中国符号,我被感染了,而当所有表演的节目让我感动,我看着这位上海女老师梁晴,聪明美丽,她的二百多位学生都在她的指挥下,表演着一个节目,那一刻语言是显得那么无力...



当我看到其中一个节目:一群学生打完太极拳,举起"中国武汉加油"的牌子,我的眼泪情不自禁地落下...

汉加油"的红色牌子,高喊着"中国加油,武汉加油"的时候,我非常激动,相信在场的几位大学孔院的老师们一定和我当时的心情一样:虽身在海外,但我们一直心系中国,为祖国和人们所担忧,祈祷祖国和人民一定送走冬天,迎来春天。我相信这种形式的现场文化表演比我在教室上一节 100 分钟的文化课更有感染力;这种大型文化活动的也会在潜移默化中提高美国学生对中国语言文化的兴趣和理解,给他们留下深刻的印象。作为全校唯一的一个中国人,看着飘扬在大厅的灯笼,中国结和春联,所有中文学生无一不穿着红装,人虽不在祖国但却深深感受到了中国文化的博大精深。当时我深深体会到作为一名中文老师和一个中国人的欣慰和光荣,一个月以来为准备庆祝新年活动的疲劳和紧张感也烟消云散,一扫而光,我又骄傲了一回。

## 阿克伦市 STEM 中学中文项目



在更广阔的世界,传播更多的中国文化。所以从小我就喜欢英语课,希望能学好英文,实现父亲的梦想。可到了大学,却阴差阳错地学了日文专业,毕业后就一直在日资工作。值得骄傲的是当时我参与了浦东机场通信设计、铺设和协助上海电信公司扩大上海移动用户的两个大项目。在日资工作了近 10 年,使我养成了做事严谨、合理安排工作计划的良好习惯,为我今后的教学带来很多益处。2002 年年初,我离开了上海和自己热爱的工作,随先生来到了美国马里兰州,在那里我刻意加强了英文的学习。2007 年,由于先生的工作变动,我们搬到了克里夫兰,很幸运地进入了阿克伦大学的教育培训项目,从此开始了我的教学生涯。今年是我第 11 年在美国公立学校教中文。我其实是一位非常普通的宝妈,业余时间喜欢购物、打扮,收拾家,最喜欢看日剧,但这么多年,我每天的大部分时间都是坐在电脑前,制作成百上千页的 PPT 课程,费劲心思如何要把我的中文课上得不仅有意思,而且要让孩子们觉得"中文"是全世界最容易学的语言。在美国,西班牙文和法文虽然是大部分学区首选外语,但在位于阿克伦市的 STEM 中学,中文不仅是所有七、八年级学生唯一的外语课,而且是必修课。更可喜的是学生若能取得 80% 以上的成绩就能获取高中学分。在整个俄亥俄州,要求所有学生必修中文的中学可谓寥寥无几,体现了中文在这所中学的重要性。在 STEM 中学,2007 年 7 年级和 8 年级的学生中文对我来说确实也是一种很大的挑战。我相信外语课上,老师传授语言固然很重要,但是目的语文化的熏陶也是必不可少的,甚至更重要。如何让这群生活在市区(urban city)的年轻美国学生真正了解中国语言文化,提高他们对中国语言文化的兴趣呢?作为全校唯一的外语老师,我和其他中文老师一样,经常边吃饭,睡觉边在思考这个问题。自从在 STEM 中学任教以来,我尽了个人最大的努力。作为传播中国文化和语言的使者,从未停止过和孩子们分享中国博大精深的传统文化。自 2012 年来,每年春节,我们全校师生家长都会一起热闹地庆祝中国新年,90 分钟的文艺节目都是由学生主持表演;我一个人负责从策划节目、服装、音乐声控、主持稿编写、邀请贵宾兼导演演的责任。节目以后,所有中文学生都会美美地享受我从中国饭店购买的中国特色春卷。中国春节这一天是我们这些市区年轻孩子最开心的一天,也是所有五、六年级学生最向往的一天。结合我们学校学生工程和动手能力强的优势,庆祝新年前一周,我会布置一个非常有意义的题目——让八年级的孩子装饰整个学校。不仅秘书办公室、校长会议室、电梯、七年级和八年级走廊、教室、表演大厅、楼梯、温馨餐厅是孩子装饰的场所。整个学校张灯结彩,沉浸在一派火红、热闹、温馨的氛围中。多面墙上有着学生们制作的各种龙在飞,学生自己画的十二生肖栩栩如生。今年的鼠年又是我们庆祝中国新年以来最有意义的一年。包括我的两个高中班的学生,我 240 个十几岁的学生用中国民族歌曲、秧歌、扇子舞、伞舞、红绸舞等各种民族舞蹈方式,及武术、太极、器乐演奏、广场舞、迪斯科、民族服装和旗袍走秀等喜闻乐见的形式,让全校师生和近 2000 家长以及社区朋友近距离地又一次感受到了中华传统文化的魅力,亲身领略中国文化的深厚底蕴。当我的 16 个八年级的学生表演完中国太极拳后,他们举起"中国加油,武

期待明年的"牛"年。STEM 中学中文老师——梁晴

My name is Harvon, 我的中文名字叫洪小文。I am a ninth-grader at Stem High School. I am in my third year learning Chinese. When I first began learning about the Chinese culture and language I was nervous that it might be too hard. However, it has become my favorite subject. I have become very interested in not only learning how to speak the language but learning about the culture as a whole. I was able to participate in the Chinese New Year celebration at our middle school and continue to help our middle school teacher with this year's celebration. I also go to the middle school to tutor students who need extra help learning Chinese.



While at the middle school our teacher, Coach Liang gave us many projects to help us explore many aspects of the culture and the country. We had a group project that we had to pick traditional Chinese dishes that we then brought to class; this helped us learn the significance and meaning behind each of the dishes we made. From her teaching

你好!我叫马爱丽。我十四岁。我上 STEM 中学八年级。Learning to speak Mandarin Chinese has been an amazing experience, has shown me a new way to look at things around the world, has taught me different holidays and the way people look at things that are associated with that culture, all thanks to Liang laoshi's teaching. As a student who has experienced learning a foreign language prior to coming to Stem, I was not as nervous as I thought I would be when I was introduced to Mandarin Chinese in seventh grade. However, I still expected the challenge that would come when learning a foreign language. Yet, I was pleasantly surprised how simple Mandarin Chinese actually was compared to the English language, how easy it actually was with Liang laoshi teaching, and how fun it was to learn and speak the language as the year progressed. As seventh grade progressed to eighth grade, I can recognize characters, translate Chinese characters to English, and write characters as well. I practiced my Chinese through bell work and Chinese games, and as the year continued, we learned to write characters and were given many projects that chal-



lenged what we learned. The groups I was in for the Chinese New Year performance, which includes Taiji, Double Fan, Fashion Show, and Public Square Dance, practiced the new dances from September to January during our recess period to prepare for the Chinese New Year performance and practice our older dances from the previous year in preparation for the Cleveland State University competition. Along with Chinese culture, all students in eighth grade had to cook Chinese food including 酸甜鸡 (sweet and sour chicken), 饺子 (dumplings), 春卷 (spring rolls), and more, this gave us a real-life experience of Chinese culture other than Chinese New Year.

你好!我叫阮爱丽。我十三岁。我上 STEM 中学八年级。As someone who merely speaks English and has an extremely limited experience with foreign language preceding my time at STEM, I came to Liang laoshi's Chinese class in seventh grade panicked, unprepared, and petrified by the idea of learning to speak a new language, specifically one as complex and intricate as Chinese, whether it be simplified or traditional, Cantonese or Mandarin. As we continued through the year, we noticed how much more we enjoyed learning in a format that welcomed, accepted and required failing; it soon became evident that the more Chinese classes we had, the more we all wanted to learn and make Liang laoshi proud.



Now, I am able to talk about my favorite colors and foods in Chinese, read posters in Chinese (Chinese restaurants, introduce myself, 我的家 (my family), and 我的中学 (my school) through characters, and have a full discussion about what I've learned thus far through multiple types of writing and typing. I know that 饺子 (dumpling), 橘子 (tangerines), 鱼 (fish), and 春卷 (spring rolls) are foods with great meaning in China (China), the tale of the Chinese New Year (Chinese New Year). Having to participate in a foreign language class always seemed like a terrifying idea to me before I began attending middle school; however, instead of failing, I was given a wonderful chance to learn and grow in ways I never could have known before. Learning to speak Chinese has enriched me as a human being, taught me new ways to learn, and educated me about world culture and life in ways I never would have had if I had not been a part of this astounding class. 阮爱丽

你好,我叫宋翰玲。我上 STEM 中学八年级。Learning about Chinese and Culture has been such an alluring and amusing experience. Consequently, taking Chinese class at STEM has been one of the best decisions I ever made. Firstly, exploring Chinese culture has made me accepting and understanding other traditions. Growing up in the West, many traditions we have are very different from the East side of the world. Simple things such as daily routines and general lifestyle were taught to me and made me think about my own lifestyle differently. Learning about other cultures has made me think "How could I do this differently". Also, by learning Chinese culture I have differentiated my opinions. Instead of thinking about something from a western point of view, I think about it from both the west and east side of view. Secondly, learning Chinese, it has made me more intelligent and astute. I now have the ability to speak Chinese after almost one year of learning, broadening my intelligence. I now may have a basic conversation with one billion more people, mandarin

in class and the many projects we did, my Chinese has gotten a lot better. Not only did I have a great teacher who helped push me to do my best and taught me as much as she could, but she also provided many great learning opportunities and experiences. I was able to participate in many performances that not only helped me showcase my Chinese capabilities, but also allowed me to learn new things like dances and songs in traditional and modern Chinese culture. I participated in performances like the Chinese New Year; as aforementioned, but also in a University of Akron performance and many more. Along with performances I was also able to participate in activities like the HSK 1 test. I not only got a perfect score, but I also got a full scholarship for a summer trip to China. Not only have I had wonderful in-class learning, but also many great hands-on experiences that have helped further my knowledge of the Chinese language and culture. 洪小文

生肖 (zodiacs) and the number 四 (4) and the color 白色 (white) are extremely unlucky due to their connection to death. Further into this year, I participated in working on a project in which my class made traditional Chinese meals and shared them with our fellow students in which we cooked 橘子鸡 (orange chicken) and 炒饭 (fried rice), and even got to try my classmates foods, which consisted of 酸甜鸡 (sweet and sour chicken), 饺子 (dumplings), 春卷 (spring rolls) and more! Later on, we performed for a second year at our Chinese New Year celebration, learning to do a Taiji dance, umbrella dance, fashion show, and square dance, along with singing songs such as "对不起 (I'm Sorry)," and "新年好 (Happy New Year)." Having to participate in a foreign language class always seemed like a terrifying idea to me before I began attending middle school; however, instead of failing, I was given a wonderful chance to learn and grow in ways I never could have known before. Learning to speak Chinese has enriched me as a human being, taught me new ways to learn, and educated me about world culture and life in ways I never would have had if I had not been a part of this astounding class. 阮爱丽

speakers. By having the ability to speak the most spoken language, I can explore more thoughts, ideologies, traditions, and practices. On a scientific level, memorization of a new language helps me boost brain power- making my memory sharper every single day. Lastly, by learning Chinese and culture I now have the opportunity to explore China. By continuing my exploration of the Chinese and Culture, I now have the ability to move to China for more career and leisure opportunities. By knowing Mandarin and the Chinese Culture, going to "City that Never Sleeps" (Shanghai) would be a smooth and mind-expanding tradition. Nevertheless, China would lead me to many different opportunities. Learning the Chinese culture and language has expanded almost everything in my life: opportunities, career options, and exploration are just some to name a few. Coming from a student who has been learning Chinese from the past year, learning Chinese and Culture will booster and broaden your whole life! 宋翰玲



Learning the Chinese culture and language has expanded almost everything in my life: opportunities, career options, and exploration are just some to name a few. Coming from a student who has been learning Chinese from the past year, learning Chinese and Culture will booster and broaden your whole life! 宋翰玲