



Sue's News

Dear parents,

It's that time of year again, time for Parent Teacher Conferences! Yinghua Academy parents will again use an online scheduling tool called **SignUp Genius** to facilitate smooth registration for conferences concerning your children. Fall Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, from 1:00-8:00PM and Thursday, October 17, from 8:00AM-2:00PM. From the convenience of your home or office, you can select the dates and times that work for your busy schedules.

As you will see, the basic format of the schedule is 10-minute time slots.

Parents of **Lower School (LS) students in KG through Grade 4** will have 20 minute conferences with Chinese home-room teachers who teach your children Chinese, math, science, and social studies; on the sign-up you will need to secure TWO back-to-back 10-minute slots.

Parents of **Middle School (MS) students in Grades 5-8**, you are encouraged to sign up for a 10 minute conference with each subject specialist in Chinese, English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Music, PE, and art teachers will also be available for 10 minute conferences with any interested parents.

Mr. Brewer, Dr. Lien and I are also available, should you wish to set a time with us, although we encourage you to contact us throughout the year at any time with your questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Historically, nearly 100% of Yinghua parents/guardians take advantage of these formal conferences to dialogue with teachers; this rare opportunity to exchange insights without our children is so beneficial to their success. We are a TEAM, and only by working together can we maximize our students' educational experience.

If you are a parent of a student in Grades 2-8, you have already received a Power School login. Parents of current KG and Grade 1 students will receive an e-mail from Chemin Chu, IT Coordinator at Yinghua with information and a login for Power School. In Power School you can see your child's schedule with the teachers' names, which is particularly important for MS students, who have subject specialists.

Please sign up at your earliest convenience as time slots will disappear quickly! Sign up will be possible from today through next Friday, October 4, until 6:00PM. Should you need guidance or have questions, please feel free to call Mary Howard, Receptionist, at 612-788-9095.

We look forward to seeing you in mid-October, if not before!
Warm regards,
Sue

Luyi's Curriculum Corner

Dear Yinghua Parents,

Confucius' teaching has greatly influenced the values and philosophy of education in the Chinese culture. In remembrance of him, September 28 (Confucius' birthday) is also designated as "Teacher Appreciation Day" in many of the Chinese-speaking regions.

Confucius believed that education knows no class distinction (有教无类) and that teaching should be adaptive (因材施教). He is regarded as a role model for all the educators and he inspires all to "never tire to study and to teach others". I know many of our Chinese teachers have learned from Confucius' teaching and expect themselves to teach and guide students, and to make a difference in their students' lives. I often hear our teachers say that "Worrying about my students kept me awake at night!" or "I brainstormed all weekend to come up with different ways to teach my students." I have also seen many teachers stay late, working in their classrooms to prepare for lessons and materials to give students a better learning experience. In Chinese culture, teaching is a well-respected profession; one becomes a teacher not to get rich but to make a difference in people's lives. Today many families expressed their appreciation for the teachers and staff. It felt great to be recognized. I know sometimes a simple "thank you" really makes a teacher's day. Thank you, Parents!

As many of you know, by the end of fifth grade, every student in our school will take the Youth Chinese Test (YCT), which is a test launched by the Hanban (Confucius Institute Headquarters) to encourage foreign students to learn Chinese and improve their proficiency in listening, reading, and writing. Our students do very well on this test. The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Education will be hosting the first annual Chinese Proficiency Award Ceremony and Reception on October 3 to recognize the students for their successful performance on the 2013 Youth Chinese Test (YCT), Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Chinese proficiency test, and the 2013 Confucius Institute Cup International Writing Competition. We have 97 students who took the 2013 YCT test and exceeded their Chinese language proficiency. They have been invited to attend this ceremony and will be recognized on stage for their accomplishment. I am proud of our students for their outstanding achievement. I would like to give all the credit to our diligent teachers who follow Confucius' steps to educate every student, wholeheartedly and tirelessly.

Sincerely,
Luyi Lien, Ph.D
Academic Director

Brewer's Blog

Hello Parents!

This week I have a few quick announcements. I'll keep this brief because most of the information I'm sending you is in the attached documents.

- **Student & Family Handbook** – Don't forget that the new Yinghua Academy *Student & Family Handbook* will be published to our website next week! It will be full of useful and important information about how to do school at Yinghua. Be sure to check it out!
- **MS Fall Dance** – Attached is the flyer and registration form for the MS Dance which is **next Friday evening, October 4th from 6:00-9:30pm**. The dance is open to all current and past Yinghua students in grades 6-8. Admission costs \$8. Registration is due by next Wednesday, October 2nd.
- **We Day** – Tuesday, October 8 is the first annual We Day event at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. We will be taking our 7th & 8th graders to the all-day event which will be celebrating and encouraging students to get involved in volunteer or community service projects that will impact the world in a positive way, both globally and locally. It's a huge deal that was started in Canada and is now breaking into the US, starting with Washington and Minnesota. We are hoping this will turn into a yearly highlight for our students. If you are a 7th or 8th grade parent or just plain curious, be sure to check out the attached information. This information was also sent home with the 7/8 graders today. Needless to say, they are beyond excited about this event and almost came unglued when I told them we would be going! It is sure to be a memorable day!

With that, I'll wish you a wonderful weekend!

Jeremy Brewer

Director of Students, Families, & Community

Spread the Word!

We have three openings in the current Kindergarten class. If you know of any interested families, please have them contact our Registrar by email at jennifer.olsen@yinghuaacademy.org or by calling the school office.

Reminder: Lost & Found

Parents, please label your child(ren)'s jackets, clothing, hats, gloves — plus backpacks, lunchboxes, and water bottles. The lost and found is overflowing!

Payments

Families that chose ACH deduction as a means of payment for Enrichment, Athletics, field trips, Music Lessons, and other Misc. charges: the ACH deduction & credit transaction for the above listed will take place on Friday October 4th, 2013.

Please plan accordingly; a \$4.00 charge will be added to rejected ACH transactions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Message to families using ACH deduction or a Credit Card for payments: from the desk of Jennifer Vanyo, Business Manager at Yinghua Academy.

Day Camps, hosted by Revolutionary Sports

Revolutionary Sports will be back this year to provide day camps for non-school days. The registration forms are included.

Day camps will be available on October 7 and October 16-18 (MEA) at Logan Park. Be sure to get your registrations in soon!

UPCOMING DATES

October 4

8:30AM-10:00AM
6:00PM-9:00PM

First Friday Coffee @Sip Coffeebar
SLO MS Fall Dance (Grades 6-8)

October 7

NO SCHOOL

Professional Development Day for Teachers

6:30PM

YACA Board Meeting

October 11

Grandparents Day

October 14

No enrichment or music conservatory this week

YA Read-A-Thon begins

It's almost Book Fair time!

The book fair will be held during conferences on Oct. 16-17, and will feature books in English from Scholastic and Usborne, as well as Chinese books from Nan Hai. YACA is seeking volunteers to help set up, tear down, and work at the fair. Interested parents can email library@yinghuaacademy.org.

FREE Family Concert : Teaching Mozart Music

Get your tickets today for the SPCOs first Target Free Family Music events. Buy tickets at The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's website (www.thespco.org).

Saturday | Oct 5 | 9:30am
Saturday | Oct 5 | 11:00am
Ordway, Saint Paul

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Math

Join Yinghua Math Team information session is on 9/30 in room 210!! All MS students are invited! Please see the attached flyer and remind the students to attend.

MS students had their first exam today. The students did a wonderful job on answering and solving math questions.

Starting 9/30, MS students will begin learning new topics in differentiated groups. This weekend's math assignment is to have a great rest and prepare for a new beginning!

English Language Arts

Grades 6-8 are working on writing short stories as their big writing project for the term. The process of prewriting is coming to an end, and writing the rough draft and going through the process of revising and editing are what they will be engaged in over the next couple weeks—along with weekly lessons in grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. This week they finished a plot outline, learned about writing good dialogue—while obeying rules of grammar and punctuation, which can be a challenge—and composed their opening paragraphs. The type of stories students are writing depends on their grade level, but all stories are to be “short shorts”—stories of 2000 words or less.

Grade 6: Writing the morality tale—any genre.

Grade 7: Writing the allegorical tale.

Grade 8: Writing the tragic tale (using Freytag's Pyramid as a model for the story structure).

Social Studies

Grade 6: After our quiz on the locations of the 13 colonies, we began our study of the Constitution. Students are reading about how each state should be represented in the new government.

Grade 7: The Civil War has begun! We are reading about Fort Sumter, the war's first battle, from 3 different sources.

Art

Our biggest art news of the year so far is the extended art time that the 7th and 8th grade classes have. As our uppermost classmen, the 7th and 8th graders' art time each week had been increased from 50 minutes to 80 minutes! We are so appreciative of our extra time. It is our goal that the 6th graders will on occasion have the opportunity to use some of their activity period on art day as extended time as well.

Grade 5: Students began the year learning about the Italian Renaissance, specifically the Ninja Turtles (Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Donatello), while creating a highly imaginative floating shape composition.

Grade 6: 6th grade also begins the year with one point perspective and the Italian Renaissance, however, they have the challenge of creating cities. After last year's introduction students dig deeper into some of the earlier Renaissance artists including the teachers of our favorite Ninja Turtles.

Grade 7: In 7th grade students start the year with all things color. We learn and relearn some of the most important color schemes and color relationships, fresh in our minds we are able to apply that knowledge to a very colorful year. Our first big project is a Wassily Kandinsky abstract/nonobjective piece.

Grade 8: Given that they did not learn about the Renaissance in their 7th grade year 8th grade is enjoying a “greatest hits” approach to the Renaissance as we have just finished a mini project on 2 point perspective cities to aid us in our first big project, two point perspective Greek Temples.