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Dear families and supporters of Yinghua Academy:

Welcome to a school year like no other. Whether our students are joining us in person or exclusively from home, we hope that their first days have been marked by happy reunions with friends, positive connections with new teachers, and a renewed enthusiasm for learning.

Just as there has never been a school year like this, we have never made a request like this. For the first time, Yinghua Academy and YACA (our parent-led support organization) are jointly appealing for your financial support at the start of the school year.

We know that some families have suffered financial setbacks during this time. **But, if 2020 hasn't been too unkind to your finances, we really need your generous support now.**

Our goal is to raise \$100,000. Honestly, neither YACA nor Yinghua has raised this much in any prior fundraiser. But we're aiming high because we really need to. With your help, we will get there — just as we have been able to surmount the huge task of preparing for this school year.

Hybrid and Distance: Delivering a Great Education for All

Returning to school has required extraordinary effort and investment.

For months, Yinghua leaders have worked tirelessly to develop and revise teaching plans and schedules. Their hard work enables us to offer both a hybrid and a distance learning option for our families while also providing daily onsite care for children of essential workers, and three at-school days for our newest students.

Yinghua teachers are hard at work connecting with students to deliver curriculum that can be presented both in-person and online. And our staff—especially those who care for our facility—ensure that our school is as safe as possible.

Thus far, Yinghua has incurred more than \$575,000 in unanticipated costs to protect the safety of our students and staff and continue our exceptional Chinese immersion model. While we anticipate receiving \$270,000 via federal pandemic-relief funding, **our current budget must cover expenses of over \$300,000.** Here is a breakdown of our greatest expenses:

- The School Board approved the hiring of **five additional instructors** to support **small class** sizes onsite *and* online.
- Yinghua implemented **safety measures** such as frequent sanitizing of high-touch areas, Plexiglas partitions in classrooms, floor dots six feet apart to remind us to social distance, Health Check stations to take temperatures and sanitize hands each morning, and a safe space for the nurse to isolate anyone exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms during the school day.
- We purchased **330 additional iPads** for families who requested them, because every student needs a digital device to make the most of school this year.

YACA Supports Our Community

As you read this letter, the Yinghua Academy Community Association is finalizing plans to make sure each of Yinghua's 852 students—hybrid and distance—receives a moon cake to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. This summer, YACA mobilized to order **face masks** featuring our dragon mascot for students and staff. And, once we can resume our 7th and 8th grade study trips to China and Taiwan, YACA will resume funding needs-based scholarships. On a budget of about \$35,000 per year, our parent group does dozens of things—small and grand—to support our families and teachers. **YACA exists to weave a fabric of community togetherness, even when we cannot be together physically.** Meanwhile, YACA's two fall fundraisers, the Read-a-Thon and book fair, won't proceed as usual because of Covid-19.

Stay Safe Dragons

2020 has been a real doozy. We hope that, throughout it all, you've appreciated how hard Yinghua staff have worked to keep our students learning. We pledge to continue delivering an outstanding education and a supportive community.

But doing school this way isn't easy or cheap. Your donation helps us sustain these investments in instruction, safety, technology, and community.

Please consider contributing to the Yinghua Academy Foundation to support the Stay Safe Dragons campaign which runs through October 15. There are several ways to donate: Enter <http://bit.ly/StaySafeDragons> in a browser to donate online, send a check with the enclosed card, scan the QR code below, or click DONATE on www.yinghuaacademy.org. Thanks for everything you do to keep our Chinese immersion learners positively engaged in school, and thanks for your financial support, too.

With gratitude and hope,



Susan Berg
CEO/Executive Director



Amanda Schneider
School Board Chair



Vanessa Beckett
YACA Board Chair

