



YINGHUA ACADEMY FOUNDATION | YINGHUA ACADEMY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
1616 BUCHANAN STREET NE | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
www.yinghuaacademy.org/volunteer/yaca/

Nonprofit #27-3698579

2021 YACA Board Candidates

Arwin Chan (Elijah 7C and Ariel 3B) currently serves as YACA Cultural Committee Chair and has been volunteering for Yinghua for eight years. She started on the YACA Board as a Member at Large before transitioning to her current role one year ago. She shares, “We all know it has been a challenging year since the pandemic started. With your help, events continued to be celebrated by students and families in new and different formats.” Arwin is running for Cultural Chair and hopes to help the school adapt to a new era while continuing to share important cultural traditions.

Longtime Northeast Minneapolis resident **Melissa Chin** has a daughter who started kindergarten at Yinghua in 2020 (Saphira K2), and is interested in being a YACA board member to help support the connection between Yinghua Academy and its families. Specifically, she is interested in the role of Volunteer Coordinator and hopes to help make it easier for families to be involved in their children’s learning and participate in the school’s fun activities. Melissa is running for Volunteer Coordinator.

Erica Drake (Cooper 7C, Anika 5A, and Cullen and Kieran 1B) has been CC (Classroom Coordinator) Liaison for four years and helped redesign the CC program. Also a longtime CC herself, she believes CCs play an important role in creating a community within the classroom and offering support to the teachers of Yinghua. Erica works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner providing adolescent care in the St. Paul Public Schools, and she is running for Classroom Coordinator Liaison.

Janelle Gieseke (Caius 3A and Arius K3) designs learning analytics and online courses with the LMS (learning management system) company Blackboard, Inc. As a volunteer for the Bloomington Early Childhood Education Council, she served on the Parent Advisory Committee and was elected to serve as Treasurer. Earlier, she studied arts education at Minnesota State University, taught music at MacDonald Montessori and Lonsdale Elementary, and assisted in the opening of Quest Academy Charter School in St. Louis Park. Janelle is running for Secretary.

Melody Ng is the mom of an Yinghua 6th grader. She's been the treasurer of the YACA board for the past two years, and has volunteered in different ways at school since 2012. Supporting teachers and staff is one of the YACA functions that Melody cares about most. She wants to serve on the YACA board for another term to continue that work, and also to keep building community so Yinghua is an *even* better school for students, staff and families well into the future. Melody is running for Chair.

John Whitfield is the dad of Archer (K4) who started at Yinghua Fall 2020 and Zadié who is looking forward to going to Yinghua Fall 2022. John recently joined YACA as a Member at Large and is now running for Treasurer.

Michael Wilson is the proud parent of a first grade daughter (Hazel, 1C). He and his family have been making their house a home in South Minneapolis. Michael graduated from Dakota State University with a major in Management and Marketing and currently serves as a Sr. Business Analyst in the finance industry where he has worked for more than ten years. Michael is running for Development Chair.