

August 14, 2023

Dear Yinghua Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to have you join us as we embark on another year of learning and growth together. In preparation for the upcoming school year, we would like to share some important information to ensure a successful start to our journey in educating students within our school community.

To begin, I am thrilled to commence my second year as the Executive Director at Yinghua. My association with Yinghua spans a total of eighteen years, since its inception as a charter school in 2006. This year holds the promise of being exceptional, as I've collaborated closely with our board to shape future plans, worked in tandem with our school community to organize engaging activities, and partnered with our staff and teachers to enhance curriculum and activities that enrich our students' learning experiences and foster their journey towards becoming independent learners.

Our focus this year revolves around building strong relationships within our school community and amplifying our community engagement. We understand the crucial role that relationships play in an educational environment, and we recognize that students' efforts and engagement are deeply influenced by the connections they form with their teachers and staff members. A nurturing environment of trust and support is crucial for fostering positive social interactions among peers and adults alike. As we embark on this endeavor, I am pleased to share a flyer introducing our team, as we believe that familiarity with the individuals nurturing your child's growth is essential. A few important updates include:

Ms. Sherry Edwards – Student Behavior and Family Liaison:

To better support our students, we have refined the role of the Dean of Students to be more specific and precise. Ms. Edwards will work closely with students, teachers, and families to provide valuable guidance, promoting positive behavior both socially and academically.

Dr. Ting-Wen Chen – Special Education Coordinator:

With extensive experience at Yinghua, Dr. Chen is dedicated to collaborating with our special education team and families to empower our students to reach their full potential.

Ms. Channy Leaneagh – Extended Learning Coordinator:

Working closely with our after-school team, Ms. Leaneagh ensures the provision of high-quality aftercare and enrichment programs.

Here are a few key highlights for the upcoming year that I'd like to bring to your attention:

Free Breakfast and Lunch Program: Commencing in the 2023-2024 school year, Yinghua is participating in the state's free breakfast and lunch program. We are pleased to offer free meals to all students. Please refer to the attached letter and forms for details on grab-and-go breakfast information and lunch pre-ordering instructions. We kindly request your completion of the attached [Google form](#) to indicate your understanding of the requirements, ensuring the smooth management of these beneficial programs for our school and students.

Responsive Classroom and Second Step: As part of our continued commitment to social-emotional learning, Yinghua has been implementing the Responsive Classroom approach since 2006. Responsive Classroom approach is a student-centered approach that fosters social and emotional development while addressing classroom management. This year, we adding the "Second Step" social-emotional curriculum, which offers pre-written comprehensive units and age-appropriate lessons. Both Chinese and English-speaking teachers will collaboratively deliver these lessons, enhancing the social-emotional learning experience for all students.

We have two initiatives in progress to strengthen our connections with parents and the community. I'm thrilled to introduce "**Tea and Talk with Dr. Lien**," a platform that offers a direct opportunity for interaction, dialogue, and support between school leaders and parents. Additionally, we're launching a series of educational seminars named "**Yinghua Parent University**." These seminars will cover current topics and invite experts, friends, and parents to engage in learning and mutual support. Our goal is to foster robust relationships between the school and families, emphasizing collaboration for our students' optimal education. We want our students to be aware of their importance and our unwavering support for them.

As staff and teachers prepare for the coming school year, students can anticipate receiving their class assignments on August 28 through Infinite Campus (IC) messages. Our dedicated team remains committed to delivering exceptional support to our families. Furthermore, I am proud to share that Yinghua has earned recognition as part of "Minnesota's Best" with a gold status for its immersion education program. It is an honor to be part of such an outstanding school and community dedicated to shaping the future leaders of our global community. Together, we are committed to building meaningful relationships that support our students' academic and social-emotional well-being.

I look forward to another successful and enriching year with you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org. I am eagerly anticipating our upcoming interactions.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luyi Lien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Luyi Lien, Ph.D.
CEO/Executive Director