



New Chapter, New Initiatives

英華 | **YINGHUA  
ACADEMY**

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Safety, Speak Chinese, Learn, Happiness, Global Citizenship

# Yinghua Academy 2022-2023 Annual Report

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## History and Mission

When Yinghua Academy opened in 2006, it was the first public charter Chinese immersion school in the U.S. and the first Chinese immersion school in the U.S. Midwest. Language immersion professionals from around the world look to Yinghua, a leader in the field with a track record of outstanding results. Parents from around the MSP metro look to Yinghua for an outstanding K-8 education and nurturing learning environment. The school typically has kindergarten waiting lists and regularly receives accolades such as first-place rankings through Niche.com.

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*The mission of Yinghua Academy is to prepare our students to be engaged and productive global citizens by providing a research-based educational program that includes a rigorous academic program, immersion in Chinese language and culture, and a nurturing and supportive school environment.*

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## Innovation

Minnesota charter public schools exist to innovate and share their discoveries, methods, and results. Yinghua was twice recognized by the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) for its innovative practices.

### *Yinghua Academy, the first of its kind*

When the school was founded in 2006, curricular materials had to be created to teach Core Knowledge content in Mandarin Chinese, and most of the school's first teaching resources were written by the founding Academic Director, Dr. Lien, who has been with the school since its first year. Now in its eighteenth year, Yinghua remains a leader in language immersion education; and school leaders and teachers are frequent presenters in the U.S. and abroad on all manner of immersion-related topics.

### *Innovation Awards*

Yinghua has received two innovation awards from MACS related to increasing and supporting Yinghua students' language and academic performances. One award highlighted the academic performances, classroom-based events held in the spring each year, during which students show and share what they know in a performance that combines three communication modes; integrates Chinese, math, science, and social studies topics. Yinghua received another innovation award for its new forms of accountability through its pioneering collaboration with the Minnesota Online High School to create three levels of Advanced Chinese online courses for K-8 immersion graduates.

## New Chapter, New Initiatives

The 2022-2023 school year began with a transition in leadership, as Dr. Luyi Lien took over as Executive Director, following the retirement of Sue Berg, after serving 16 years as Yinghua's Academic Director. Under Dr. Lien's leadership, Yinghua began implementing new practices for student growth and success as well as resuming the capstone study abroad trip.

One of the most prominent new initiatives was the dedication of the daily PM homeroom time as a focused period for students to complete homework. During the 2022-2023 school year, PM homeroom was held daily from 2:50 p.m. to 3:25 p.m., giving students 35 minutes to receive support from homeroom teachers. During this time, subject specialists and Special Education staff also rotated in and out of each homeroom class to support student learning. A goal of this level of support is to help students develop stronger study habits and organizational practices through more direct attention from teachers. This initiative received positive feedback from parents and staff, and is a practice that Yinghua plans to continue into future school years.



Fourth graders receive homework support from their homeroom teacher.

## South Courtyard Learning Space

Yinghua's south courtyard is a space that was renovated over the summer between the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year, and was a focus of Yinghua fundraising in 2021-22. This space was updated with permanent picnic tables, landscaping with benches and native plants, and the addition of raised garden beds to serve as an outdoor learning space for Yinghua students. The initial impetus for this update was



Aftercare using the courtyard while making an end of year piñata.

additional space for classes following the pandemic, and has remained of great value to the Yinghua community. In the 2022-23 school year, a new team of Dragon Life Organization students, the "Green Team", researched, planted, and cared for the garden beds in collaboration with Yinghua staff. The south courtyard has also served for an outdoor space for Middle School students to eat lunch on good weather days, and enjoy classes outside for subjects such as English, art and science.

### *Chinese Achievement*

Yinghua students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of opportunities throughout the school year to share and test their Mandarin skills. Competitions that students took part in included the Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition, American Academy of International Culture and Education speech contests, local poetry contests and more. Many Yinghua students were recognized for their proficiency and achieved high levels of success. In the Chinese Bridge Competition for the 2022-2023 school year, fifth grade student Zoey Cardamone was named champion in the World Overall and Americas categories following her performance. Yinghua is proud of the many students that participated in the competitions throughout the year and celebrated all students' successes in every contest.



A still from Zoey Cardamone's Chinese Bridge performance recording.

### *Strategic Planning 2023-2026*

As part of Yinghua's continued development and growth, a new strategic plan spanning 2023 through 2026 was created as the culmination of conversations, meetings, open house sessions, and feedback. Key stakeholders such as Yinghua Academy School Board members, staff, parents and community members took part in various phases of the planning, identifying key areas of strengths and improvements at Yinghua. The creation of the new strategic plan began with an open house event held on March 18 to hear from the Yinghua community on goals and hopes for the future, which was then carried over into the further planning by a smaller group of stakeholders and advisors from the Prouty Project, who provided guidance throughout the process. Toward the end of the planning timeline, another open house was held for stakeholders to learn about the draft of the strategic plan and provide feedback.

Yinghua Academy's new strategic plan was finalized and approved by the Yinghua Academy School Board on August 21, 2023, and focuses on three key areas for Yinghua's future development. Supported by and based on Yinghua's mission and core values, these areas are world class Mandarin immersion, cultivate and equip students, and partnerships and relationships. With these three focuses, Yinghua will begin to implement and adjust current strategies to continue to build upon previous success.

### *Return of the Study Abroad Trip*

Yinghua has a history of doing study abroad trips with seventh and eighth grade students for two weeks during the summer months, generally alternating between traveling to mainland China and Taiwan. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these trips were put on hold.

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua was able to offer a two week trip to Taiwan for seventh and eighth grade students as well as graduates from the last three years. In preparation for the trip, Yinghua lead students and alumni in researching Taiwanese areas, creating introduction videos for their homestay families, and communicating with students at one of Yinghua's sister schools in Taiwan. The study abroad trip serves as a capstone to students' Yinghua education as it included visits to historical and cultural landmarks, sister schools, homestays with local families, and experiencing local food, activities and celebrations.



Yinghua students in Taiwan with local students created tie dye using native leaves.

While in Taiwan, the trip also gained media attention on two separate occasions, creating further memories for our students of these experiences. The first notable instance was during a baseball game when the Yinghua flag and banner were prominently displayed on the big screen, to which students reacted with joy and excitement. The second remarkable moment unfolded on the final day of the trip as the travel group came across a golden dragon restoration ceremony in the Grand Hotel Taipei. Several students actively engaged in the ceremony, unveiling the new dragon ritual, which drew the attention of numerous media outlets, with whom some Yinghua students spoke confidently and respectfully. The trip was an outstanding success at connecting Yinghua students and alumni with the Taiwanese people and way of life. With the 2023 summer study abroad trip complete, Yinghua plans to continue offering this experience to students in the future.



Yinghua students and banner on screen at a Taiwanese baseball game.

## Authorizer

Friends of Education (FOE) ([improveK-12education.org](http://improveK-12education.org)) serves as the authorizer for Yinghua Academy and ten more Minnesota charter schools.

Authorizers play an accountability role and provide public oversight for the charter schools they oversee. They do not manage or operate schools, but are responsible for monitoring a school board's oversight of the school. This includes strict financial and academic oversight. By monitoring student testing, conducting site visits, and reviewing annual reports, FOE assesses these three critical areas: academic performance, finance and reporting, and legal compliance. In addition, a common component of FOE schools is emphasis on foundational skills, critical thinking, data-driven results, and preparation for post-secondary studies.

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*Contact Friends of Education:  
11100 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 800  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
[www.improveK-12education.org](http://www.improveK-12education.org)*

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When Yinghua renewed its authorizer contract in the 2018-19 school year, Friends of Education Executive Director Beth Topoluk applauded Yinghua for superior academic performance, achieving 90% of its academic goals, lack of material or significant deficiencies in its external audits, timely reporting and reporting compliance, and transparency in disclosing matters to Friends of Education. FOE awarded Yinghua a contract renewal of five years, the lengthiest period allowed by law, and they have annually made a financial contribution to Yinghua in recognition of the school's outstanding work.

## Compliance and Safety

Yinghua Academy strives to be completely compliant with MDE reporting and professional development regulations. In addition, 100% of Yinghua teachers have permission to teach from the State Board of Teaching.

Yinghua Academy follows state and local health and safety requirements and complies with fire codes and other safety requirements. Students and staff regularly participate in emergency drills for fire, severe weather, and lockdowns. Key administrators attend nationally recognized school-safety workshops, evaluate school drills, and update safety procedures in response to concerns as they arise.



## School Enrollment, Attrition, and Applications for Kindergarten

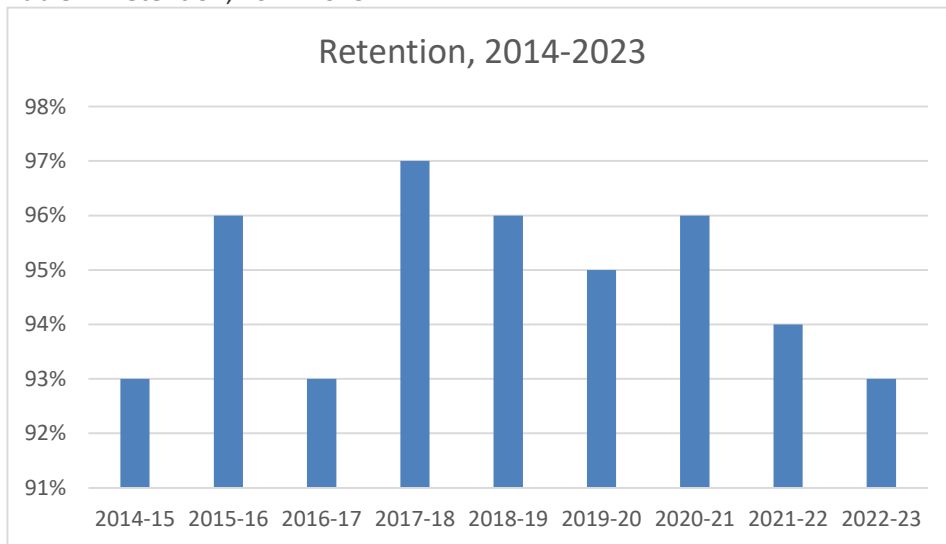
As a public charter school, Yinghua provides an innovative and successful educational path for all students and is dedicated to a tuition-free, open-access, high-quality education. Yinghua follows state statutes related to application and admission procedures for public elementary schools and complies with the [Yinghua Academy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity](#) policy. Enrollment is open to all students residing in any Minnesota school district. Yinghua accepts all applications without question unless the child does not meet the minimum age requirement for kindergarten. In order to begin kindergarten in the 2022-2023 school year, a student was required to be five years of age on or before September 1, 2022.

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*October 1, 2022, enrollment at Yinghua Academy was 823 in 30 K-8 homerooms, with three or four sections per grade and a student-to-teacher ratio of 11:1. The attrition rate was 7%. During the 2022 Open Enrollment period, 148 applications were submitted for 74 of 112 kindergarten openings not filled by siblings.*

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Table 1: Retention, 2014-2023



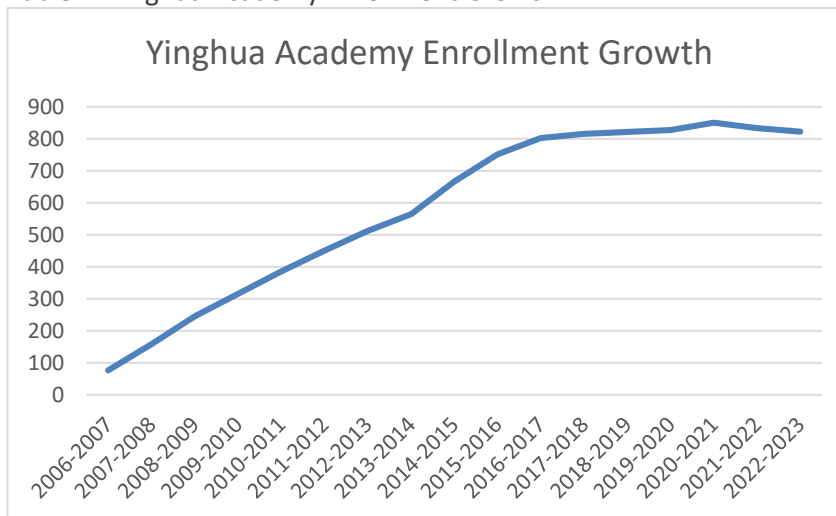
Yinghua opened in the fall of 2006 with 76 students in kindergarten through third grade and grew steadily during its first seven years. Unable to accommodate enrollment demand in 2008, the school moved from its first location in St. Paul to its current facility in Minneapolis on Buchanan Street Northeast.

Further student body and capacity growth ensued which helped meet high enrollment demand and improved the school's financial situation.

### *Enrollment growth and the 2012-2014 facility expansion*

A fourth section of kindergarten was added in 2011, and the school temporarily operated an offsite kindergarten for two years while the Buchanan Street facility was expanded. Enrollment capacity was increased in 2012 in kindergarten, first, fifth, and sixth grades. The facility expansion, a major construction project, resulted in an enhanced and expanded facility with a new gym, library, and cafeteria; two music rooms; a three-story middle school; and an art room, special education offices, and science lab.

Table 2: Yinghua Academy Enrollment Growth



Source: MARSS reports, using enrollment data from ~ October 1 each year.

The year following the expansion, Yinghua enrolled one five-section cohort of kindergarten. Again, this enrollment increase was in response to high demand for kindergarten and to alleviate budget pressure. In 2016, enrollment began to plateau due to space constraints, and the School Board planned for a period during which there might be an enrollment decline.

### *Enrollment process*

The school posts its application procedures and deadlines on [www.yinghuaacademy.org](http://www.yinghuaacademy.org) by October 1 and explains the process through public tours and open houses. The Open Enrollment (open application) period for the 2022-23 school year ran from January 3 to February 16, 2022, for matriculation in the fall of 2022.

Enrollment applications are time and date-stamped upon receipt by the school. If more applications are received for a grade than space is available, the school holds a public lottery using a computerized random number generator to yield the list of admitted students and, if needed, a waitlist by grade.

Because the number of applications in 2022 was greater than the Board-approved grade-level capacities, the school held a lottery during a public meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. The lottery was well attended by prospective families.

Based on the lottery, some applicants were offered the opportunity to enroll. The other applicants were placed on a waiting list. After the close of Open Enrollment, Yinghua continued to accept applications for all grades, and when there was no space available in a specific grade, the applicant was placed on the waiting list.

Yinghua Academy abides by Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.11, and the school adheres to [YA 010 Admissions and Lottery Policy](#), which outlines, in section 7a-b, that siblings of enrolled students and children of Yinghua staff may receive enrollment preference. If, during Open Enrollment, the school receives the appropriately completed application of a sibling of a currently enrolled student or child of a Yinghua staff member, the applicant is admitted automatically. This is true even when the admission and enrollment result in the school exceeding the grade-level board-approved capacity. Preference is not given for any other reason. Applications received after the Open Enrollment period were numbered and responded to in the order in which they were received.

Enrollment projections were calculated using predicted attrition rates from the October 2016 strategic planning document titled "Assumptions to Budget Model from Growth Report." The following rates were used: K 0%, 1st 2%, 2nd 3%, 3rd 4%, 4th 3%, 5th 8%, 6th 4%, and 7th 8%.

Table 3: Projected and Actual Enrollment, 3 Years

2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
Projected	Actual	Projected	Actual	Projected	Actual
808	851	814	834	810	823

### Demographics

The school has seen some changes in its enrollment subgroups. Since last year, the ratio of students who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches increased from 7% to 20%, and the percent of students using special education services decreased slightly from 8% to 7%.

Table 4: Two-Year Demographic Comparison

	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Geography</b>	81 metro ZIP Codes	84 metro ZIP Codes
	47% Minneapolis	52% Minneapolis
	7% St. Paul	5% St. Paul
<b>Ethnicity</b>	42% Asian Pacific Islander	43% Asian Pacific Islander
	66% Caucasian	66% Caucasian
	7% African American	8% African American
	6% Hispanic/Latino	6% Hispanic/Latino
	2% Native American	2% Native American
<b>English Language Learners</b>	8% ELL	6% ELL
	10% Speakers of Chinese	6% Speakers of Chinese
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch Qualified</b>	7%	20%
<b>Special Education</b>	8%	7%

### High school and university placements

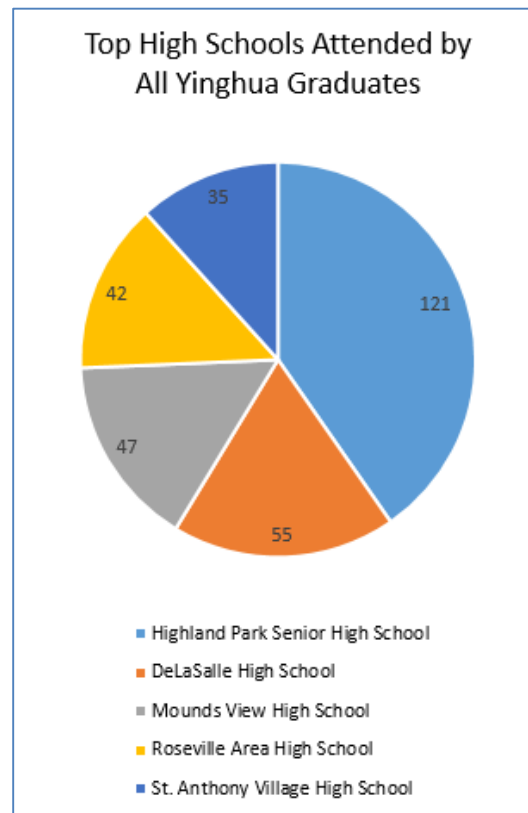
Just as Yinghua students hail from dozens of different Twin Cities ZIP Codes, Yinghua graduates go off to attend dozens of different high schools. Over the years, the school's 547 graduates have selected 74 different public, charter, and private schools for their high school education. Highland Park Senior High School (HPSHS) and Yinghua Academy have an agreement which allows Yinghua graduates to attend HPSHS even if they reside outside of the district. HPSHS offers Chinese Language Arts and Chinese immersion classes at a level that is a match for Yinghua graduates.

The 87 graduates of the Yinghua Class of 2023 selected the following 23 high schools: Breck School, Columbia Heights High School, Concordia Academy, DeLaSalle High School, Highland Park Senior High School, Irondale High School, Math and Science Academy, Minneapolis Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis South High School, Minneapolis Southwest High School, Minneapolis Thomas Edison High School, Minneapolis Washburn High School, Minnehaha Academy, Minnetonka High School, Mounds Park Academy, Mounds View High School, Osseo Senior High School, Roseville Area High School, St. Anthony Village High School, St. Louis Park High School, St. Paul Academy, St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, and White Bear Lake High School.

Higher education institutions attended by Yinghua alumni include Minnesota's Augsburg University, Bethel University, Concordia College (Moorhead), Hamline University, St. Olaf College, and the University of Minnesota. Outside of Minnesota: UC Berkeley (CA), Lewis and Clark College (OR), the University of Chicago (IL), Whitman College (WA), Stanford (CA), Princeton University (NJ), Yale University (CT), Purdue University (IN) and the University of Wisconsin.

Yinghua continues to forge relationships with area high schools so that current families are able to make informed choices. Since 2016 Yinghua has hosted a high school panel of administrators from area high schools as a way to build connections and expose current families to an array of educational offerings. On December 1, 2022, Yinghua hosted a high school panel in person, featuring nine area public, charter, and private schools. The event was well attended by Middle School parents and students.

Graph 1: Top High Schools



## Dissemination of Information

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### *2023 Minnesota Statutes 124E.17 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION*

*§Subdivision 1. Charter school information. (a) Charter schools must disseminate information about how to use the charter school offerings to targeted groups, among others. Targeted groups include low-income families and communities, students of color, and students who are at risk of academic failure.*

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#### *Compliance with 2023 Minnesota Statutes 124E.17*

Yinghua typically hosts weekly tours from late September through late May. At December and January public meetings, Yinghua shares information about how to enroll and how to use the offerings of the school. Yinghua connects with the Northeast Head Start site to encourage families to submit enrollment applications for their children entering kindergarten and uses its website to publicize Open Enrollment and the enrollment process.

Yinghua takes seriously its partnership with parents and guardians who are essential to making sure that kindergartners are ready to begin school. Prospective parents of incoming kindergarten students and members of the public tour the school, typically on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and meet the Executive Director. At a December open meeting, parents learn about the school and about immersion education practices. A Saturday morning sample immersion class allows prekindergarten students and their parents or guardians to experience an immersion classroom.

Kindergarten Roundup occurs in May and allows families to meet kindergarten teachers and experience a sample lesson, learn about transportation, talk with the Executive Director, and take photos with Blaze the dragon. At the sample class and at Roundup, parents observe as their children, most of whom have no prior Chinese-language exposure, interact with teachers who deliver lessons only in Chinese and speak only Chinese in the presence of students. This year, Kindergarten Roundup was held on May 5 with indoor stations, due to the weather, where eighth grade students and parent volunteers assisted administrators and teachers with activities for visiting children and parents.

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*The school held three day camps in August to help acclimate kindergarten, first, and any new students to the school environment. These camps were offered free of charge, and the intention was to give students and families a gentle reintroduction to school following a summer away from the school community.*

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To communicate with and retain enrolled families, the school regularly uses the website, weekly newsletters, and phone, text, and email messaging for updates about conferences, tutoring, homework help, and other events and services to facilitate student success. Teachers communicate with families directly via in-person appointments, email, phone, and written notes regarding project due dates, exam preparation, homework, and grades. Teachers and administrators follow up with parents who missed conferences and with the families of any students with accumulated unexcused absences.

Evening events are offered on special topics that are of interest to Yinghua families. Two annual “What’s the Scoop?” events help parents to assist their children with significant school transitions. The first Scoop event is for first grade families who learn about what is expected in formal English Language Arts classes, which begin in second grade. The second Scoop event is for fourth grade families who learn about Middle School; starting in grade five, students switch classes for classes taught by subject specialists, though this has changed to provide support to fifth grade students. This year, Yinghua continued to have fifth grade students spend multiple subjects with their homeroom teacher in order to remedy the impact left by Covid-19 in learning school routines. This represents a significant change from the Lower School model of remaining in one classroom for Chinese, math, science, and social studies lessons taught by one homeroom teacher. Finally, as mentioned in a previous section, Yinghua hosts a high school panel which is open to all students and families. This year, both Scoop events were held in person at Yinghua.

### *Equity*

- During the 2022-23 school year, Yinghua did not require families to have Wi-Fi at home. Yinghua provided iPads for students who needed a computer to complete school work. There were 51 iPads for students in grade three through seven, as requested by their families. Yinghua provides every Middle School student with their own 1-on-1 laptop during the school year.
- Students in grades two and three are leveled in two English Language Arts groups according to their reading proficiency. This allows teachers to pay specific attention to the level of reading—developing, intermediate, or advanced—of each learner. To meet the needs of the 7% of Yinghua students who are English Language Learners (ELL), Yinghua employs an ELL teacher, who meets with small groups of students during the school day for extra English teaching time. ELL support is not a substitute for grade-level English Language Arts (ELA) classes; rather, it is provided in addition to the seven periods per week of ELA in grade two and six periods per week in grade three.
- Financial aid is given to families who express need to cover expenses for extras such as for field trips or retreats. In the past, families were asked to contribute \$5 per child for skate rental during the Physical Education month-long roller-skating unit, but YACA, the school’s parent association, now covers this expense. Aftercare discounts are offered to families who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch and to all families who express a need.
- Yinghua students wear uniforms. Used uniform sales offer uniform pieces for a suggested donation of \$1 apiece. Yinghua adjusts uniform requirements as needed for religious and ethnic considerations.

- During the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua students came from 84 different Twin Cities ZIP Codes. Yinghua offers nine bus routes to accommodate families. Busing is free to those who reside in the City of Minneapolis and to families from outside the city who can accompany their children to a Minneapolis stop.
- One of the tenets of language immersion education is that diversity is celebrated. To offer a child multilingualism is to open doors for understanding the world from more than one perspective. Visitors frequently comment on the diversity of Yinghua staff and the student body. By design, 100% of homeroom teachers are Chinese-speaking and usually of Asian descent. Yinghua strives for increasing ethnic and socio-economic diversity in its enrollment, however, overall change is slow due to sibling privilege (permitted under Minnesota law) and full enrollment.



Yinghua students during their daily recess outside pose for a picture.

## Strategy and Governance

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### *2017-2020 Strategic Plan*

*Initiative 1: Increase Chinese proficiency*

*Initiative 2: Increase student engagement through self-directed, creative, curious learning*

*Initiative 3: Lead Chinese immersion education by sharing our expertise around the world*

*Initiative 4: Manage growth while prioritizing Chinese immersion*

*Initiative 5: Align infrastructure with strategy*

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The 2016 strategic planning process yielded positive community engagement and discussion as well as tools such as the “Strategy Plan Implementation,” a document which outlines a structure and timeline for achieving initiatives and objectives. The School Board and Executive Director collaborate to take responsibility for setting and evaluating strategic initiatives, monitor strategy implementation, and pay close attention to environmental changes. The Executive Director reports on progress at monthly School Board meetings. Though the timeframe of the most recent strategic plan is described as 2017-2020, many of the goals are ongoing and work to achieve them is continuous. Yinghua’s goal is to act strategically on an ongoing basis.

As a public school, Yinghua is licensed by the State of Minnesota. A charter public school is an independent public school governed by a school board (also known as a board of directors). Yinghua follows all Minnesota public education standards including the open meeting law. Meeting information is shared via the school’s master calendar which is published on the school website. School Board meeting agendas are published prior to the meeting on the website, and minutes that have been approved by vote of the School Board also are posted there.

### *School Board*

The Yinghua Academy School Board consists of up to 13 members who are elected to three-year terms by the parents, staff, and board members of the school. The Board consists of accomplished people who represent one of three constituencies: licensed Yinghua teacher; Yinghua parent/guardian; or community member. Yinghua’s bylaws require that it have at least one person from each of these three groups on the School Board at all times.

Following are the definitions of board member categories:

- Teacher: a licensed teacher employed at Yinghua Academy as a teacher
- Parent/guardian: a parent/guardian of a student enrolled at the school; the parent/guardian may not be an employee of the school
- Community member: an individual who is neither a teacher employed at Yinghua nor a parent/guardian of a student enrolled at the school



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*The primary responsibilities of a School Board are to:*

- *Develop the vision and mission of the school*
  - *Select, support, and evaluate a chief executive*
  - *Ensure effective planning*
  - *Set policy that will ensure the school's ongoing viability, and*
  - *Oversee the monthly and long-term financial management of the school.*
- 

### *School Board elections*

Yinghua holds annual School Board elections in the spring. Each parent and legal guardian of a child currently enrolled at Yinghua, each current employee of the school, and each current Yinghua board member is eligible to vote. Per the bylaws, nominations are solicited at least 60 days before the election period opens. Nominations come from teachers, parents and guardians, and community members. Newly-elected board members are seated to the board on July 1.

Elected members and volunteers serving on committees each have a school email address for board and school-related communication. Board and board committee email addresses follow this pattern: [firstname.lastname@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@yinghuaacademy.org).

### *2022-2023 School Board election timeline*

- February 16, 2023: Call for nominations.
- March 24, 2023: Voters received information about the nominees including biographical information and candidate category (parent/guardian of a currently enrolled student, licensed teacher currently employed at Yinghua, or community member who is neither a parent nor a member of staff).
- April 27, 2023: Annual School Board meeting with candidate introductions. This meeting was conducted in person with written and video recorded statements by candidates posted on the school website the next day.
- April 27-May 4, 2023: Election period. Voting occurs via US Post and via electronic ballot.
- May 8, 2023: Election results announced.

The 2022-2023 Yinghua Academy School Board included one teacher, three community members, and six parents: Nathan Bode, Secretary, parent; Ye Cheng, licensed teacher (#510045); V John Ella, parent; Paul Haller, Chair, community member; Andrew Lawton, parent; Cindy Moeller, community member; Evan Owens, parent; Charles Robinson, Treasurer, parent; Amanda Schneider, parent; and Yinglu Zeglin, community member. The Executive Director serves on the Board, *ex officio*.

### *Committees*

All board members must chair or serve on at least one committee of the board. In accordance with school bylaws, committees do not have decision-making authority. Rather, these active working groups conduct research and make recommendations to the School Board at regular board meetings. Committee chairs are encouraged to recruit members from the Yinghua parent and teacher community and may also recruit from outside the Yinghua community, particularly if special skills are needed.

### *Committee mission statements*

- Academic Committee: Prepare students to be engaged and productive global citizens by providing a research-based, rigorous, Chinese immersion educational program. Develop an ongoing, job-embedded program of professional development for staff.
- Development Committee: Develop a long-term fundraising plan, cultivate prospects, and provide oversight for the school’s two annual giving campaigns (Fall Fundraiser and Red Envelope) in partnership with the CEO/Executive Director and YACA (Yinghua Academy Community Association)/YAF (Yinghua Academy Foundation).
- Finance/Facilities Committee: Assist the Yinghua School Board and CEO/Executive Director to ensure effective allocation of financial resources and timely and accurate reporting to meet long-term financial goals including facility planning and maintenance.
- Governance Committee: Assume primary responsibility for matters pertaining to Board recruitment, nominations, orientation, training, and evaluation in accordance with the bylaws of Yinghua Academy as well as established policies and practices approved by the Board. Assist the Board with policy development and oversight.
- Personnel Committee: Assist the Yinghua School Board and the CEO/Executive Director in ensuring that Yinghua’s human resource policies and practices (including but not limited to compensation, benefits package, and school culture) support Yinghua’s ability to recruit, hire, and retain high quality teachers and staff.

### *Monthly board meeting attendance*

Table 5: 2022-2023 Attendance rate by School Board members at School Board meeting

Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Annual Meeting	May	Jun
N/A	100%	80%	100%	100%	70%	90%	100%	100%	100%	60%	90%	60%

### *Yinghua Academy Community Association*

The parent association, called YACA which is short for Yinghua Academy Community Association (YACA) does not have school governance responsibility but works to build community. YACA supports the Executive Director's vision. YACA was founded by parent volunteers during the first year of the school's existence in order to promote enrollment and raise funds. In 2011, the group incorporated as a Minnesota nonprofit (named Yinghua Academy Foundation) to facilitate fundraising. YACA's focus is on supporting teachers and students, and annually they coordinate book fairs, meals for teachers during conferences, classroom volunteers, merchandise sales, activities showcasing Chinese culture, and fundraisers. YACA is organized into various volunteer support teams which have different focuses, including hospitality, event teams, classroom coordinators, and a cultural events team.

### **School Leadership**

The school administration consists of the Executive Director, Academic Directors, and Dean of Students. The primary responsibility of the Executive Director is to lead and direct the implementation of the mission and policy across the school. The Executive Director reports directly to the School Board. All other school employees report to the Executive Director. Each of these professionals brings extensive experience in education and a passion for the mission of the school.

### **Luyi Lien, Ph.D. 连校长 (Lien Xiaozhang), CEO/Executive Director**

Dr. Luyi Lien, newly appointed Executive Director at Yinghua Academy, is a visionary pioneer who has been an integral part of the school since its inception in 2006. Her illustrious journey at Yinghua Academy spans a myriad of roles, including classroom teacher, curriculum writer, textbook author, and Academic Director. Before joining Yinghua, Dr. Lien was a published author and essayist in her native Taiwan. With an unwavering commitment to excellence, Dr. Lien's remarkable 17-year tenure has played a pivotal role in shaping Yinghua's robust immersion curriculum.

Dr. Lien's forward-thinking vision transcends conventional boundaries, as she consistently strives to provide exceptional educational opportunities to students. Always looking ahead, she pioneers innovative programs that not only expand students' horizons but also enhance their collaborative skills.



Dr. Lien is internationally renowned within the immersion education community as an inspiring and reflective practitioner. She has been a distinguished speaker at prestigious conferences, including the National Chinese Language Conference (NCLC), ACTFL, and the Startalk conference. Her influence extends globally, as she has been invited to address audiences in China, Taiwan, Singapore and Canada. Dr. Lien shares her expertise by consulting with new immersion schools, guiding them in the development of their curricula, and serving on the advisory boards of multiple language learning organizations.

Dr. Lien is primed to lead Yinghua Academy into an auspicious future, preserving its esteemed legacy while forging a path for continuous growth. Her collaborative leadership style serves as a model, fostering a community of learning that harmoniously combines excellence with well-being and happiness. Dr. Lien's leadership promises to further elevate Yinghua Academy's renowned reputation and enduring impact on the world of immersion education.



#### Danielle Miller, English Academic Director

*“Effective teaching for all students is about believing that success is possible and working relentlessly toward making it happen.”* This quote by James L. McLeskey, author of *Inclusion* embodies Danielle Miller’s philosophy of education. As English Academic Director, her goal is to foster a school climate that focuses on maximizing students’ full potential while developing them into moral citizens. Over the past thirty years, Ms. Miller has had professional experiences that span over three continents and include working at an urban school district, a suburban school district, three different private college preparatory schools, and a Chinese immersion school. Through these endeavors, she has had the opportunity to experience the school through the eyes of a teacher, an administrator, and a parent.

Ms. Miller’s teaching experience ranges from teaching students in first grade up to eighth grade. She has taught ELA, math, social studies, science, and English as a second language. Additionally, Ms. Miller has had a range of administrative roles which have included:

- Lower School (K-6) Academic Quality Coordinator at the Internationale Schule of Frankfurt-Rhein-Main (Germany)
- Lower School (Grade 1-6) and Upper School (Grade 7-12) Academic Quality Coordinator at the International School of Minnesota (ISM)
- PLC Peer Observer, a PLC Grade Level Facilitator, a member of the Instructional Leadership Team, Academic Development Team and Lead Teacher Team at Kaleidoscope Charter School. Additionally in 2018, she was awarded the Leadership in Educational Excellence Award through Resource Training & Solutions
- English Curriculum and Instructional Coach at Yinghua Academy.

**Fang Wu, 吴主任 (Wu Zhuren), Chinese Academic Director**

Wu Zhuren has worked for Yinghua Academy for more than 15 years. She graduated from Tianjin Normal University in school management in China and has had over seventeen years of experience with extensive training in the field of education before coming to the United States. Wu Zhuren taught second grade for eleven years at Yinghua Academy starting in 2007, and she is proud to watch students grow both academically and as strong individuals throughout their years here. The thing Wu Zhuren enjoys the most is seeing how young students have grown to enjoy learning and speaking Chinese with the support of teachers and parents in the Yinghua community. Most recently, Wu Zhuren has worked as a Chinese immersion instructional coach since 2019. She worked very closely with the Academic Director as well as the Chinese and math team. As an instructional coach, Wu Zhuren worked with teachers to improve the quality of lessons and the quality of students' education, serving as mentor and role model, helping teachers stay fresh and use the latest techniques and technologies in their classrooms. Additionally, during the pandemic, Wu Zhuren took the new assignment as a fifth grade homeroom teacher and a MS CLA teacher. Wu Zhuren's vision for Chinese learning at Yinghua is to foster confident bilingual students who have an excellent command of Mandarin.



**Marcus Pobloske, Dean of Students**

Mr. Pobloske (Mr. P) joined Yinghua in 2022 and has extensive experience working with children as a teacher, administrator, activities coordinator, coach and guardian ad litem. At Yinghua he is responsible for the Dragon Life student government organization, creating a safe and healthy school climate, managing student behavior, implementing school safety policies and supporting positive relationships with Yinghua families. Mr. P is a passionate educator who is devoted to empowering students of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

*Professional development plans*

In Minnesota, charter school leaders who do not hold an administrative license must share their professional development plans in the school's annual report. Below is the professional development plan that the Executive Director followed during the 2022-2023 school year.



**Executive Director Professional Development Plan, 2022-2023**

Goal 1: Provide leadership to maximize use of school/district resources

1. Evidence of Performance 1:
  - a. By May of 2023, in conjunction with the board, develop and implement a five year strategic plan, which clearly identifies Yinghua's key priorities (short term and long term goals) and empowers Yinghua to make decisions over the next few years.
2. Evidence of Performance 2:
  - a. By the fall of 2023, develop a plan by which the district will maintain a funding balance reserve of 25% of the annual general budget.
3. Evidence of Performance 3:
  - a. Annually prepare and submit a report to the school board concerning expected and unexpected revenue/expenditure changes for all of the current fiscal year's funds over the following three years.

Goal 2: Provide leadership to strengthen school/community communications and relationships

1. Evidence of Performance 1:
  - a. Assess existing communication methods and identify preferred communication methods and content of communications to internal and external stakeholders concerning volunteer and partnership opportunities.
  - b. Evidence:
    - i. Report on existing communication methods;
    - ii. Report to identify preferred communication methods and content shared with internal and external stakeholders
2. Evidence of Performance 2:
  - a. Conduct a minimum of three community meetings to provide an update on our school's general developments and/or initiatives.

## Financial Performance

The school's budget creation process, used for many years, is mature, deliberate, and methodical. Yinghua takes a conservative approach towards budget creation and implementation.

### *Budget creation*

The budget creation process begins in the winter of the prior year when the Executive Director, the Business and HR Manager, and the school's financial management services group, CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), propose a budget for the following year. Input from other administrators and teaching staff is collected and prioritized for inclusion during the budget creation process. Consideration is given to academic and operational needs. CLA prepares projections of enrollment and expenses.

The budget then undergoes a thorough review and vetting through the Finance and Facilities Committee to develop and address any questions and concerns. Input and agreement in direction are determined as the changes are incorporated into the draft budget, and a draft is presented to the full board for review and approval based upon the recommendation of the Finance and Facilities Committee. The Board provides suggestions before the final budget is approved in the spring for the following fiscal year.

### *Implementation of the Board-approved budget*

The Executive Director, together with the school's Business and HR Manager, implement the Board-approved budget for the year. School administrators engage the help of CLA to ensure that projected revenues are meeting budget expectations. The Executive Director exercises prudent discretion to execute the budget and has authority to manage expenses within budget parameters.

Yinghua Academy has many internal controls to manage the school's fund and cash operations in order to reduce the risk of inadvertent loss through human error or negligence. The Executive Director authorizes all expenses, the Board Treasurer reviews and approves them, and CLA makes payments. This creates a separation of duties between the entities. The school maintains a close working relationship with CLA while executing the budget. The Treasurer of the Board and the Finance and Facilities Committee worked closely with school administrators and CLA to ensure a successful financial year.

### *Monitoring and reporting*

The school's financial documents are closely reviewed on a monthly basis through the Finance and Facilities Committee. Committee members review and inspect the financials and challenge items that may be inconsistent with the budget. The Board Treasurer presents a monthly update at each regularly scheduled board meeting providing full transparency to the School Board, staff, and community. Yinghua provides copies of public documents to fulfill regulatory and contractual obligations and to any interested external entities.

*Fiscal Year 2022-2023*

The audited FY2022 books showed a fund balance of 25% of expenditures and the unaudited FY2023 books forecast a fund balance of 29%.

With the school continuing in-person learning for the fiscal year 2023 the food service program (FD 02) and the school’s community after-school programs (FD 04) continued normal operations. Yinghua used \$194,004 of the COVID relief related federal awards they received to help support lost instructional time caused by the pandemic, summer school related programs, and the COVID-19 testing program. Yinghua also saw a large increase compared to previous years in cleaning/sanitation expenses to ensure a safe learning environment for students which effected its general fund surplus.

Enrollment has plateaued and is predicted to remain stable in the coming school year due to the continued addition of a fourth kindergarten section and consistent retention numbers. Yinghua’s fund balance has remained stable with the minimal fluctuations in the enrollment numbers.

Table 6: General Fund (FD 01) Balance History

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Projected
31%	28%	26%	25%	29%	28%



Kindergartners practice their math at an in-class market assisted by Middle School students.



Table 7: Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2023 (unaudited)

		Description	
<b>Assets</b>	Cash		\$2,383,434
	Accounts Receivable		\$50,305
	State Aid Receivable		\$851,273
	Federal Aid Receivable		\$339,112
	Prepaid Expenses and Deposits		\$142,536
	Prior Year State Receivables		\$0
	Due from Other Funds		\$0
	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$3,766,650</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	Salaries and Wages Payable		\$416,372
	Line of Credit		\$0
	Accounts Payable		\$277,225
	Payroll Deductions and Benefits Payable		\$97,998
	Unearned Revenue		\$31,937
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$823,532</b>
	<b>Fund Balance</b>		<b>\$2,943,118</b>

Table 8: Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

	Description	Un-Audited
Revenues	State Revenues	\$8,552,978
	Federal Revenues	\$396,254
	Other Revenues	\$1,152,163
	Donations and Gifts	\$167,090
	Food Service	\$431,535
	Total Revenues	\$10,700,020
Expenditures	Salaries and Benefits	\$5,701,188
	Building Lease and Operating Expenses	\$1,258,622
	Programming, General Administrative	\$2,156,633
	Food Service	\$392,083
	Community Service (Yinghua Care)	\$756,329
	Total Expenditures	\$10,264,854
	Surplus (Deficit)	\$435,166
Fund Balance	Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,507,953
	Committed Fund Balance	
	Add Surplus (Deficit)	
	Ending Fund Balance	\$2,943,118
	Combined Fund Balances Percentage	29%

## Raising Funds and Connecting with Alumni

In July 2019, Yinghua invested in its fundraising infrastructure by retaining database consultant Stacy Lowell of Insight Giving to upgrade the tools used to cultivate, steward, and recognize donations, keep in touch with the school's growing alumni population, and engage volunteers in the life of the school.

Two groups of volunteers work with the Executive Director to set fundraising priorities and direction—the School Board's Development Committee and the board of directors of the parent association, YACA. The school's Communication and Development Coordinator works with both groups to execute campaigns, track donations, cultivate prospects, and steward donors. Funds are raised from individual and foundation sources, workplace matching gifts, and grants.

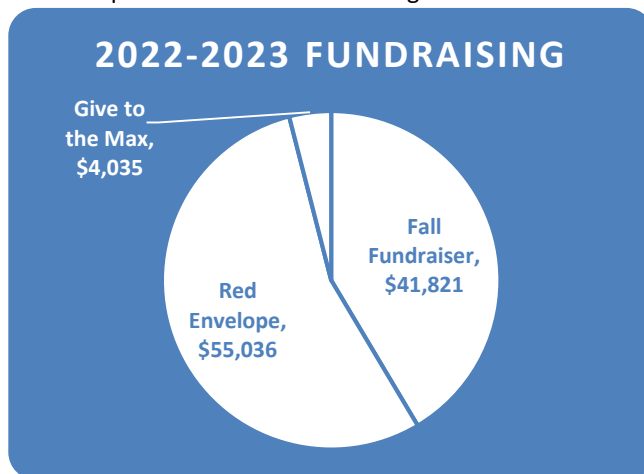
This year, a fundraising campaign was held in the fall toward the end of the 2022 calendar year. The 2022 end of year campaign was a joint fundraiser between the school and YACA raising funds to support outdoor playground equipment, field trip transportation, and support educator well-being. Outdoor playground equipment, such as a basketball hoop, became a priority item as two public playgrounds very close to Yinghua's building were removed in the summer of 2022. Yinghua also resumed field trips in the 2022-2023 school year, though in order to not burden families with high field trip costs, Yinghua's fundraising was focused on funding these experiences. For field trips, Yinghua also received generous support from the Yinghua Academy Community Association (YACA) each term of the school year.

The Red Envelope letter campaign coincides with Chinese New Year, and the school's annual CNY performances provide the perfect opportunity to remind parents and other supporters of the value of their engagement with the school through donating and volunteering. In 2023, the Red Envelope Campaign focused on raising funds to support educator well-being and professional development opportunities for staff. With creative guidance and assistance from two Yinghua parents, a student and two staff members performed a short skit raising awareness of the Red Envelope Campaign during the CNY performances.

### *Alumni*

Connecting with Yinghua graduates is increasingly important as the alumni population grows and many of the school's eldest students conclude their university years and enter the workforce. Equipping Yinghua graduates to continue to develop their Chinese language skills is ongoing work. The first formal Yinghua alumni gathering was held on December 30, from 5-8 p.m. to reconnect with alumni and hear stories of their learning experiences post-Yinghua. During the event, Yinghua alumni shared a meal, completed activities, and discussed the creation of a formal alumni association. The event was well attended and Yinghua plans to host more alumni events in the future.

Graph 2: 2022-2023 Fundraising



## Staffing

The Yinghua teaching staff is selected using a three-tiered process. The first step is an interview with the hiring committee. Next, the candidate teaches a sample lesson. The last step is a final interview with the administrative team to review the job description, policies, procedures, salary, and benefits.

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*The Yinghua staff (full-time and part-time) totaled 107 in the 2022-2023 school year with a student-to-teacher ratio of 11:1. Teacher retention between the 2021-2022 school year and the year of this report was 82%.*

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Yinghua teachers and educational staff are reviewed three times during the school year. Teachers submit weekly lesson plans to the Academic Directors for review. The weekly lesson plans form the building blocks of grade-level curriculum collaboration. Teachers attend weekly lesson planning meetings with grade-level and subject-matter teams.

All Yinghua teachers are credentialed, or approved for credentialing, and meet the state requirements for public education instructors. 100% of teachers participated in professional development. 85% of Yinghua teachers have advanced degrees in their fields, and this includes three with doctorate degrees. 56 (of 60) teachers served in full-time positions. Alongside Yinghua teachers, Educational Assistants and Special Education Paraprofessionals (15 total) served as “other instructional staff.” Yinghua employed 26 non-teaching full-time staff, and 12 non-teaching part-time staff. Prior to the 2022-2023 school year, the number of current administrators (3) had remained constant since 2013. Starting at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua had four administrators, as the Academic Director position was split to allow a more dedicated focus on the Mandarin and English language areas of the curriculum.

Last year the teacher retention rate was 82%, which is 6% higher than the 2021-2022 school year. Though COVID-19 has continued to play a role in teachers’ decisions to make a change in employment, 82% retention is only 1% lower than Yinghua’s retention rate the year before the pandemic. Several teachers left to pursue further education, and a few moved to be closer to family. Four teachers had a one year exchange visitor (J) visa, which is also a factor of the lower retention rate.

Ten student teachers from the National Taipei University of Education in Taiwan visited Yinghua to observe and learn from Yinghua teaching staff for roughly three months. The student teachers observed, assisted and eventually lead lessons with Yinghua staff guidance in a variety of subjects. Their experience was focused on immersion based learning and instruction, and they also took part in a number of Minnesota activities.



A Yinghua staff member brought homemade Italian dinner to Taiwanese students to show hospitality.

To review staffing data, click the link to find sheets with full time and part time teaching assignments and related data:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DSum0dHgWLJ2x9rgh2clg-8uE0EuBAfln1ecoi7JE3k/edit?usp=sharing>

## Curriculum

Yinghua's K-8 academic curriculum references Minnesota State Standards, Common Core standards, national standards for foreign language education, and the Core Knowledge Sequence, a systematic model of education in which each successive year of education is built on what children have learned in prior years. The Core Knowledge Sequence is based on the notion that, although current events and technology are constantly changing, a body of lasting knowledge and skills form the core of a strong K-8 curriculum.

Executive Director, Dr. Luyi Lien, has developed and customized the school's curricular materials and leads Yinghua in all curriculum development to ensure that content delivered in Mandarin covers the Core Knowledge Sequence and Minnesota Standards in addition to building Mandarin fluency. It is this internally-created curriculum that has given Yinghua students both a high level of Mandarin fluency and a deep understanding of Core Knowledge content.

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*Yinghua has captured national and international attention along the way.*

*2023: Ranked best charter elementary in Minnesota by [Niche.com](#) and ranked fourth out of all Minnesota districts by [Schooldigger.com](#)*

*2022: Visit from Chinese Ambassador Qin Gang*

*2020: Multiple first-place rankings through [Niche.com](#)*

*2016 and 2017: Minnesota Association of Charter Schools innovation awards*

*2015: National Blue Ribbon recognition by the U.S. Department of Education*

*2014: Confucius Classroom of the Year by the Chinese Ministry of Education (Hanban)*

*2008: Foreign Language Assistance Program grant to develop the middle school (\$811,265)*

*2007: World Language grant for \$100,000 to develop the elementary school (\$100,000)*

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## Chinese Language Arts

The Mandarin Chinese immersion program incorporates both content-based instruction (CBI) and thematic-based instructional approaches. The full early immersion model program that Yinghua adheres to was designed in consultation with the Center for Applied Linguistics and the University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition. Yinghua's program is internationally recognized as a dynamic example of language immersion best practices.

Yinghua's Chinese Language Arts curriculum includes modern and classical literature, informational texts, and the foundational skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Topics integrate history, social studies, science, and technical subjects. Classical literacy is incorporated in all grades in a variety of forms to support students' language and cultural understanding. In Middle School, Chinese Language Arts teachers systematically introduce classical Chinese literature to widen the scope of students' Chinese language knowledge and advance their cultural literacy.

### *Math*

Yinghua uses Singapore Math, an internationally-recognized applied mathematics curriculum which helps students understand the *why* behind concepts in mathematics. Math is taught in Chinese at all grade levels though the text in Singapore Math workbooks is in English. This permits parents to assist with math homework. Math concepts are understood first in a concrete manner, then students illustrate a problem pictorially, and finally the concepts are represented in mathematical form. In middle school, math is offered in levels: Core and Honors. Each has its own pace in covering material that is at or above grade level.

### *English Language Arts*

In English Language Arts (ELA), the school uses the 2013 Reading Street series (published by Pearson Education, Inc.) as a foundation for grades two through five. This is supplemented with novels, a poetry curriculum, and other primary sources. The program meets the requirement of Common Core Standards, which focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language usage components and aligns with the most current Minnesota State Standards for ELA.

Yinghua delays teaching English until grade two in order to make time to solidify Chinese language skills in kindergartners and grade one students. The Yinghua ELA curriculum is customized for quick “ramp-up” since students begin formal ELA studies two years later than usual.

### *Science*

Yinghua’s science curriculum is aligned to the current Minnesota State Science Standards and national standards published by the National Research Council. Yinghua also incorporates core knowledge standards from the Core Knowledge foundation. At the elementary school level (grades K- 4), science is taught in Chinese immersion classrooms. Science at the middle school level (grades 5-8) is taught in English. Elementary and middle school science teachers work together to solidify the sequence of science curriculum from kindergarten through grade eight. The standards incorporate the nature of science and technology, the connection between science and engineering, and earth, life, and physical sciences throughout the grade levels.

Middle school science at Yinghua includes the disciplines of Biology, Ecology, Geology, Meteorology, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Physics. Instruction emphasizes both the methods of doing science and the understanding of important science concepts. Students are taught an inquiry method that encourages them to ask questions based on direct observations made from hands-on experiments, academic reading, and multimedia presentations. Students complete research projects as well as design and conduct their own investigations. Important science concepts are constructed and internalized as students make connections between life experiences and classroom learning.



Seventh grade student during frog dissection.

### *Social Studies*

In Social Studies, Yinghua focuses on teaching students how to view historical events using critical thinking skills and how to ask questions and obtain evidence that educates people about the value of these events. Students learn about citizenship, government, economics, geography, and history.

In kindergarten through grade five, social studies is taught in the Chinese immersion classroom where teachers address Core Knowledge topics such as the Thirteen Colonies, U.S. presidential biographies, land formations and geographical terms, European history, and the Inuit and Anasazi cultures, as well as Chinese history and geography topics such as the Qin Dynasty and Emperor Qin Shi Huang; the Han, Tang and Song Dynasties; and the Great Wall and Chinese inventions.

Sixth through eighth graders' social studies courses are taught half in Chinese and half in English depending on the topic. Subjects include Chinese history from mythology and the pre-Qin period to modern and contemporary periods; the great philosophers of Ancient China; Chinese art history; Ancient Greece and Rome; the European Renaissance and Reformation; the American Revolution; the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; the U.S.-Dakota War from each side's perspective; U.S. immigration; the Great Depression; the Sino-Japanese War; World War II and the Holocaust; global citizenship; the impact of human beings on the environment; and current local, national, and world affairs.

### *Classes with specialists*

Yinghua recognizes the connections between overall academic achievement and student exposure to specialty subjects such as art, music, and physical education, and maximizes student exposure to these subjects. Monthly whole school "theme webs" interweave language, content, and culture objectives in all classes. Students practice music, visual art, and physical education in purpose-built, customized facilities with teachers who are specialists in these areas.

### *Music*

Music education is delivered either in Mandarin or in English. During the lower school years, students read, write, analyze, describe, and move to music. They are introduced to different types of music, music theory, singing, and playing instruments. Kindergartners have 60 minutes per week of music; grades one through eight each have two 50-minute periods per week. In third grade students learn to play recorder. Every fourth grader makes a music instruction choice—they may choose a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass) or percussion and receive instruction during music class. Students may also choose vocal music and participate in a choir where professional singing techniques are taught. After fourth grade, students who elect to continue in orchestra meet twice a week for practice before school and during music class; Yinghua has two orchestral groups. A Conservatory of Music offers after school lessons to more than 100 students in Western instruments such as violin and piano as well as Chinese instruments such as dizi and hulusi.

### *Visual Art*

The art curriculum utilizes Discipline Based Art Education which introduces drawing, painting, printing, collage, and sculpture and emphasizes art criticism and history. The art studio has a full wall of south-facing windows, ample workspace, and a kiln. Students are encouraged to question and discuss what they see and create, and they apply their classroom knowledge during trips to museums and art studios. This multi-layered engagement with the visual arts encourages students to apply the observation and analysis skills they acquire in other classes. Kindergartners have 30 minutes per week of art while students in grades one through eight each have 50 minutes per week.

### *Physical Education*

Physical education (PE) at Yinghua aligns with National Association for Sport and Physical Education standards and emphasizes participation, sportsmanship, skills, character education, and safety. Students exercise in a state-of-the-art gymnasium (nearly 8,000 square feet) as well as in the expansive Northeast Park with multiple playing fields. Students use roller-blades, bikes, cross country skis, snowshoes, and sleds. Health is integrated into the PE curriculum across grades with extra classes focusing on maturation and healthy choices taught by science and PE faculty in fifth and eighth grades. Kindergartners have three 30-minute classes while all other students enjoy two 50-minute periods per week.



First graders during the annual PE Wheels Week.

### *Technology*

Technological learning is integrated into classroom learning and also is taught as a distinct discipline. Seventh and eighth graders have school-issued laptops. Assignments in science, English and social studies may be issued via laptop and texts often are provided via this medium. Students learn keyboarding in fourth grade and learn to use websites for research in technology class. At all ages, Chinese teachers use web-based tools such as IQChinese, iChinese Reader, and VoiceThread. Video-conferencing helps develop Chinese conversational skills between Yinghua students and sister school peers in China.

### *Extracurricular activities*

Yinghua's middle school students have the option to participate in a student group called Dragon Life Organization (DLO) which works to engage students in building their community as leaders. Dragon Life is a vibrant student group which organizes student-led service projects, dances, "late-nights," tutoring for younger students, help with school events, and other programs which engage middle school students with their lower school peers for social activities.



DLO students after helping with the Kindergarten Roundup event.



Yinghua offers a wide range of fee-based after school programming including sports, music lessons, and clubs. Students enrolled in the basic after school program, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on school days, may go to Homework First, the playground, or library. Students may also register for special after school Enrichment classes such as nature crafts, chess, theater, or sports. Some after-school instructors are Yinghua teachers and staff, while others are community members or teachers from outside organizations. The 2022-2023 school year included some new classes such as Intro to Coding and Intro to Spanish, which were ideas shared by Yinghua parents/guardians.

Yinghua is a member of the Minnesota Urban Debate League and its Dragon Debate Team, coached by parent volunteers, saw many successes in the 2022-2023 school year. In other creative endeavors, Yinghua students participated in a wide variety of enrichment opportunities including various forms of dance, drama, sewing, and classes using clay. All of these activities align with the school's strategic goal to reinforce self-directed, critical thinking and curious learning.

Yinghua's after school Conservatory of Music offers 30-minute private music lessons taught once per week by professional musicians with extensive performance experience. Instruments offered include viola, piano, percussion, guitar, ukulele, double bass, and cello. Conservatory students perform at a year-end recital.

In Athletics, Yinghua offers in-house sports for students in kindergarten through grade four and traveling teams for students in grades five through eight. Younger students may select from soccer, floor hockey, basketball, track and field, and a sports sampler, and Yinghua participates in a conference of similar-sized schools which offers Middle School students the opportunity to compete. Middle School students have access to sports such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, cross country running, cross country skiing, track and field, badminton, and fencing, and new sports are added if there is sufficient interest and coaches are available.

#### *Overview of language by grade*

The full immersion model is used in kindergarten and grade one which means that core subject areas—math, science, social studies, and language arts—are taught in Mandarin Chinese.

In grades two and three, the full immersion model is used for the core subject areas, and students study English language arts for approximately 300 minutes per week. Teachers walk their students from the immersion homerooms to the English language area of the building. This practice is in keeping with the principle of language separation, an immersion best practice: school settings are customized and outfitted according to the language of teaching. In the Yinghua immersion classroom, students are surrounded by Chinese language on wall posters, in books, and in teaching tools and classroom games. Likewise, in the English classrooms, the posters, books, and learning materials are all in English.

In middle school, the amount of time in classes taught in English gradually increases. By grade eight, courses are divided evenly between Chinese and English. Middle school classes taught in Chinese include Chinese language arts, math, social studies, music, and orchestra. Classes taught in English include English language arts, science, social studies, art and physical education.

## Chinese Excellence Nationally and Internationally

As a leader in Mandarin immersion education, Yinghua students and staff were recognized for their experience and proficiency by a large number of conferences, competitions, and achievements. Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua students participated in a wide variety of competitions and contests through different mediums such as speeches, essays and videos. The Yinghua students, staff, and community also put together a Lunar New Year celebration each year to offer a unique stage experience to students while practicing the cultural traditions common when welcoming the new year.

### *Lunar New Year Celebration*

Yinghua held the annual Chinese New Year performances on Saturday, February 11, at Bethel University's Benson Great Hall. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, and the performances had a theme of "Love, Kindness, and Responsibility." Students and staff embodied this theme throughout the performances in the form of songs, dances, acting out cultural legends, and more. 2,236 people attended the performances, which included family, community members and visiting guests. Yinghua also partners with iDream.TV



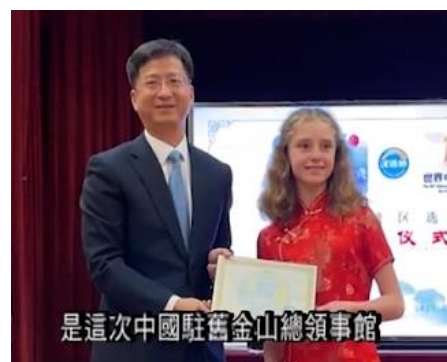
Seventh grade hosts during the annual CNY performances.

to offer a livestream of the performances for those unable to attend in person. The livestream had 2,141 views from all across the United States and 32 countries, including Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, United Kingdom, Belgium, Norway, Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Philippines, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Croatia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Algeria, and Jordan.

### *2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Chinese Bridge – Chinese Show for Foreign Primary School Students*

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Bridge competition, 28 Yinghua students were selected to participate in the first round of the Washington Division, and five students participated in the San Francisco Division. After more than six months and many rounds in the competition, fifth grader Zoey Cardamone won the overall world championship and the Americas' championship as part of the Washington Division. Sixth grader Elena Myhrom was the first prize winner for the San Francisco and competed in the world finals. Yinghua alumna Anika Fokken from the Class of 2022 was chosen as part of the high school level competition to represent the Washington region in the global finals.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chinese Bridge competition, fifth grade student Sage Houdek achieved a remarkable feat by winning the championship in the contest which was hosted at China's San Francisco Consulate General. Among the 1,000 participants in the state-level preliminaries, Sage stood out as one of the six finalists. Yinghua sixth grader Kaia Bursell won first place in the Washington Division of the contest. As a result of their outstanding performances, Sage and Kaia earned the opportunity to represent the San Francisco and Washington Divisions in Kunming, China, in October 2023, where they will compete against talented contestants from across the globe.



Sage Houdek receiving her championship award.

### *AAICE National Chinese Speech Contest*

Yinghua had many students participate in various rounds and groups of the AAICE National Chinese Speech Contest, and a number of students earned awards for their excellence. In the World Language Group, two Yinghua fifth graders earned first and third place, and another fifth grader received an honorable mention. In the Immersion Program Group for students in grades six through eight, Yinghua students swept the top three places, with a sixth grader earning first, two eighth graders earning second, and a sixth grader and a seventh grader tying for third place. Seven other Yinghua students also received honorable mentions. In the Heritage Group for students in sixth through eighth grade, a Yinghua seventh grader earned third place.

### *2022 Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition for Foreigners Across the Globe*

Fourteen Yinghua students took part in the competition which had a total of 471 participants from 68 countries. One Yinghua eighth grader won the Most Potential Award, another eighth grader received the Most Creative Award, and 11 Yinghua students received Excellence Awards.

### *19<sup>th</sup> National CLASS Essay Contest*

At the start of the 2022-2023 school year, students were encouraged to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> National CLASS Essay Contest, and 69 students from second through eighth grade were selected by their teachers to compete in the contest. There were 19 students who won gold awards, 18 students who won silver awards and 13 students who received honorable mentions.

### *2022 National Chinese EXPO of Student Works*

After more than two months and participation by more than 4,000 teachers and students from 47 states in the U.S. and Canada, outstanding works of the selected students were exhibited on the Expo's website. There were 69 students and five student groups from Yinghua that participated in the exhibition. From kindergarten through eighth grade, works by 33 Yinghua students and groups were selected to be represented.

### *Second Annual Chinese Short Video Competition*

Thirty-six Yinghua students participated in the video contest hosted by the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago with a topic of "My Story with China." Students wrote about the impact of learning Chinese on their lives and how they have broadened their horizons and gained a new understanding of the world after learning Chinese. A Yinghua eighth grader received the Outstanding Video award and seven students received Best Chinese Speaker awards.

### *Fall Online Chinese Scholarship Program*

More than 30 Yinghua students registered for the Fall Online Chinese Scholarship Program, where students in grades four and above participate in fun lessons held virtually by three universities in China that revolve around Chinese culture and society to further students' Chinese proficiency.

## Academic Performance and Charter Contract Goals

This report includes updates on the school's charter contract goals. Progress is assessed in part through analysis of academic results data as measured by the Minnesota Department of Education as the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA), the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), along with internationally-recognized Chinese language proficiency exams (SOPA, OPI, YCT, and HSK). This year, Yinghua can report on all annual assessments.

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### *Charter Contract Goals*

- 1: State Assessment Tests (40% weight)*
  - 2: Chinese Acquisition (30%)*
  - 3: Nationally-Normed Assessments (15%)*
  - 4: Ready for School (5%)*
  - 5: School Culture (10%)*
- 

#### Goal 1: State Assessment Tests

##### Sub Goal 1.1: Absolute Proficiency

Goal 1.1 is comprised of two parts. The first being that by the conclusion of FY2023, the school's third-grade proficiency rates for the most recent four years will average no less than two points higher than the state average in reading. For the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua remained on track to achieve this goal as the third grade student proficiency rate is 67%, which is 19.6 points higher than the Minnesota statewide average of 46.4%. At the conclusion of FY2023, Yinghua has achieved this long-term goal with an average of 13.9 points higher than the Minnesota statewide average, though due to the Covid-19 pandemic there is no data for the 2019-2020 school year.

The second piece of Goal 1.1 states that each year the school proficiency rates will exceed the state-average proficiency for the same grades served by the school by at least twenty percentage points in math and science, and by at least fifteen percentage points in reading. In 2023, students did exceed the twenty percentage point target in math with a difference of 30.8 percentage points above the Minnesota state average of 46.7%. In science, the goal was also achieved as the student proficiency rate was 59.9% which was 21.8 percentage points above the state average. Similarly, in reading, the student proficiency rate was 71.3% which was 21.7 percentage points above the state average, fully meeting the annual goal

**Results: The school met Goal 1.1.**

**Sub Goal 1.2: Comparative Proficiency - District**

Goal 1.2 states: Each year the school will demonstrate higher school-wide proficiency rates than:

- the Minneapolis school district, for the same grades served, for reading, math and science,

	Math (G. 3-8)		Reading (G. 3-8)		Science ( G. 5 & 8)	
	Yinghua Academy	Minneapolis Public Schools	Yinghua Academy	Minneapolis Public Schools	Yinghua Academy	Minneapolis Public Schools
2021	62.0%	35.2%	65.9%	45.3%	61.4%	34.7%
2022	77.4%	33.5%	76.2%	40.5%	65.6%	31.9%
2023	77.5%	35.4%	72.2%	38.1%	59.9%	30.9%

- the combined average of St. Anthony/New Brighton Public Schools and Minnetonka Public Schools for grades 3-8 in math, grades 5 and 8 in science, and grades 6-8 in reading.

	Math (G. 3-8)		Reading (G. 6-8)		Science ( G. 5 & 8)	
	Yinghua Academy	St. Anthony & Minnetonka	Yinghua Academy	St. Anthony & Minnetonka	Yinghua Academy	St. Anthony & Minnetonka
2021	62.0%	65.7%	67.5%	72.9%	61.4%	61.4%
2022	77.4%	70.3%	76.2%	71.9%	65.6%	63.9%
2023	77.5%	72.5%	72.2%	71.7%	59.9%	62.2%

As the scores above show, Yinghua Academy successfully achieved higher school-wide proficiency rates in comparison to the Minneapolis school district in math, reading, and science by more than 20 percentage points in each subject. When compared to the combined average of the St. Anthony/New Brighton Public Schools and Minnetonka Public Schools, Yinghua students achieved higher proficiency rates in math by 5 points and in reading by 0.5 points. In science, Yinghua’s school-wide average was slightly below the comparative average by 2.3 points.

**Results: The school partially met Goal 1.2**

**Sub Goal 1.3: Growth**

Goal 1.3 states that as published by the Minnesota Department of Education, each year: either the school’s on-track growth will exceed the state-average on track growth in each reading and math; or **the school’s average percentage of students who maintained or improved achievement levels will exceed the state-average.** In math, Yinghua students achieved this goal with an average percentage of students who improved or maintained at 78.1%, 21.8 percentage points higher than the Minnesota state average. Similarly, Yinghua students exceeded the state average in reading with an average of 76.2% over the state average of 60%.

**Results: The school met Goal 1.3**

### Sub Goal 1.4: Achievement Gap Reduction

Goal 1.4 has two elements related to closing all racial and economic achievement gaps between students. Yinghua's goal includes that each year for each subgroup other than English Learners, for which the school had publicly reportable/sufficient counts: the school's proficiency rate will exceed the state-average proficiency rate for the subgroup for each reading and math. Yinghua reports on two subgroups, Special Education and Free/Reduced Price Lunch. In 2023, both subgroups achieved higher proficiency rates than the state average in math and reading. In math, the Free/Reduced Price Lunch subgroup was 20 percentage points above the state average and the Special Education subgroup was 31.4 percentage points above the state average. In reading, the Free/Reduced Price Lunch subgroup achieved a higher proficiency rate than the state average by 17.2% with a proficiency rate of 50.5%, and the Special Education subgroup was above the state average by 10.3% with a proficiency rate of 35.9%.

The second piece of Goal 1.4 is focused on English Learners, stating as published by the Minnesota Department of Education, for each year the school has publicly-reportable/sufficient counts of English-Learner students: the school's English Learners will average higher progress towards target than the statewide average, and the school's percentage of English Learners who met or exceeded their targets will exceed the statewide average. Yinghua's English Learners achieved this goal in both parts, as students averaged 75.4% progress toward the target, 28.1 percentage points higher than the state average, and 45.8% of students met or exceeded their targets which is 16.9 percentage points above Minnesota state average.

#### **Results: The school met Goal 1.4.**

### Goal 2: Chinese Acquisition

#### Sub Goal 2.1: Speaking and Listening

Goal 2.1 has two parts that contribute to assessing the Chinese speaking and learning of Yinghua students. The first part states: Each year, the school will administer a Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA) in at least kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and at least 80% of students will achieve the following proficiency goals:

- Kindergarten: Novice-High
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Intermediate-Low
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade: Intermediate-Mid

In the 2022-23 school year, Yinghua students in kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade were slightly below the 80% goal for their respective proficiency goals, with 74.7% of kindergartners achieving the Novice-High level, and 72.9% of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders achieving the Intermediate-Low level. Yinghua's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students exceed the goal with 85.3% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieving the Intermediate-Mid proficiency level or above.

The second piece of Goal 2.1 is as follows: Each year, the school will administer an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) in at least grades 6 and 8, and at least 50% of the students who are continuously-enrolled since first grade will achieve Intermediate – Mid and above in sixth grade or Advanced – Low and above in eighth grade (defined by ACTFL). In 2022-2023, Yinghua eighth grade students took the OPI and 24.1% (21/87) of them received Advanced-Low proficiency levels or above. Of the sixth grade students that took the OPI in 2022-2023, 87.7% (82/89) received Intermediate-Medium or above proficiency levels.

The OPI assesses Chinese-language speaking and listening. Among language experts, the OPI is viewed as an ideal tool to assess students’ oral proficiency. Yinghua began using this assessment seven years ago to evaluate how older students use language in real-life situations. In administering the tests, Yinghua follows the Language Testing International (LTI) Protocol for OPI assessment which is a 20 to 30-minute one-on-one interview conducted over the phone between the candidate and an ACTFL-trained and certified examiner. The examiner continuously adapts to the interests and abilities of the student and delves into more complex language while rating the speaker’s responses.

Yinghua’s SOPA and OPI expectations and goals are higher than those of peer schools, but school leaders feel that stretch goals help with planning and teaching. Yinghua used the Lower School rate of progress to predict Middle School results and set goals based on the Lower School track record of continuing to increase by one proficiency level per grade despite the fact that students in Yinghua’s grades 6 and 8 have fewer contact minutes with academic subjects taught in Chinese than in younger grades and fewer opportunities to use Chinese in social settings.

**Results: The school partially met Goal 2.1.**

**Sub Goal 2.2: Reading and Writing**

Goal 2.2 states each year the school will administer the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) in at least the fifth grade, and at least 80% of fifth grade students will pass YCT Level IV. Additionally, the school will administer the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) in at least grade 8, and at least 80% of the eighth grade students will pass HSK Level IV.

In 2022-2023, 82.5% (66/80) fifth graders passed the YCT Level IV. Yinghua fifth graders did successfully achieve this part of the goal. Of the 84 eighth grade students that took the HSK, 58 students passed which is equivalent to 73.4%. Completion of the HSK requires students to be in-person, and as such three eighth grade students did not participate. This passing percentage falls short of the 80% goal, which Yinghua will use as a marker for student progress post-pandemic and adjust curriculum accordingly.

**Results: The school partially met Goal 2.2.**

### Goal 3: Nationally Normed Assessments

Each year, the school will administer a nationally-normed assessment in at least fourth and eighth grades. In addition, each year, the school’s percentage of fourth and eighth grade students who meet or exceed the nationally-normed average for their respective grade, will exceed 50%. In the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua’s fourth and eighth grade students achieved these goals in both subjects by a range of 18.29 to 43.82 percentage points.

Percent of Students Who Met or Exceeded the National Norm (NWEA)				
	2022		2023	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	91.5%	70.7%	93.82%	68.29%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	88.5%	79.3%	76.74%	73.25%

**Results: The school met Goal 3.**

### Goal 4: Ready for School

This goal states that each year 100% of incoming kindergarten students with parental consent will be screened utilizing a kindergarten readiness assessment in their home district. Yinghua received the results of 100% of Early Childhood Screenings completed by incoming kindergartners.

**Results: The school met Goal 4.**

### Goal 5: School Culture

#### Sub Goal 5.1: Professional Development

In 2022-2023, Yinghua provided training and development opportunities for faculty and staff. Before the school year started, Yinghua hosted Dr. Michael Grewe, Augsburg University’s Dean of Students, as a guest speaker and he led discussions around gender identity, inclusion community, and equity. This session included discussion, work in small groups, and ways to further learn about the topics addressed. Professional Learning Community meetings were held throughout the year focused on building relationships and effective communication with students. This included discussions on Marshall B. Rosenberg’s “Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life,” how to develop strong relationships, and discussions of personality differences using enneagrams to better understand students. During the period covered by this report, 100% of teachers received professional development.

**Results: The school met Goal 5.1.**



### Sub Goal 5.2: Attendance

Each year, the school will achieve a higher rate of consistent attendance than the state average. Consistent attendance means students who attend more than 90% of the time the student is enrolled. In 2022-2023, the attendance rate was 95.42% by Yinghua students.

**Results: The school met Goal 5.2.**

### Sub Goal 5.3: Chinese Culture

Goal 5.3 states: 100% of students not otherwise excused will participate in both the school's Chinese New Year (CNY) performance and the spring Chinese Academic Performances. CNY participation is required and graded in Term II. This school year, 100% of students participated in the CNY performance and the spring Chinese Academic Performances. The 2023 CNY performances were a highlight, as the Yinghua community returned to Bethel University's Benson Great Hall for the performances welcoming the Year of the Rabbit. For the spring Chinese Academic Performances, Yinghua family members were invited into the Yinghua school building to watch their students perform in their classrooms.

**Result: The school met Goal 5.3.**



Dr. Lien and Yinghua teachers attended and spoke at the first CLASS CIRCLE conference in April 2023.

## Future Plans

Yinghua's new Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 serves as the foundation for upcoming initiatives and continued future development through a 10-year vision. The Strategic Plan is segmented into three main initiatives as described in further detail below.

### *Initiative 1: World Class Mandarin Immersion*

Initiative 1 places emphasis on continuing to deepen Yinghua's foundation in immersion education, and striving to become well-known worldwide as one of the top Mandarin Chinese Immersion schools. To achieve these goals, Yinghua will enhance curriculum and instructional strategies to refine the most comprehensive Mandarin immersion experience. A key area of this initiative is also improving and retaining high-quality staff through annual evaluations and strengthening financial stability through fundraising strategies to offer more competitive compensation and benefits.

### *Initiative 2: Cultivate and Equip Students*

In helping students develop as well-rounded individuals, Initiative 2 aims to cultivate students' sense of self-confidence and happiness, while also equipping them to embrace future challenges and to think as global citizens. Identified strategies to support Initiative 2 are implementing a holistic approach to student development and expanding Yinghua's enrichment opportunities. In order to holistically approach student development, Yinghua will focus on emphasizing social-emotional learning for all grade levels, providing comprehensive support systems for student growth, and encouraging exploration, risk-taking, and self-expression. By fostering partnerships with cultural institutions, experts, and professionals, as well as encouraging participation in competitions, conferences, and global exchange programs, Yinghua will aim to broaden horizons and educational experiences.

### *Initiative 3: Partnerships and Relationships*

Post Covid-19 pandemic, Yinghua aims to reestablish partnerships with other immersion schools, with universities, and with corporations and foundations, and to build strong relationships with students, families, and communities. In order to succeed in these partnerships and relationships, Yinghua will strengthen communication and engagement with students and families by establishing effective channels for open and transparent communication, conducting Parent University sessions to engage families in their children's educational journey, and building a strong alumni network. Outside of the direct Yinghua community, Yinghua will foster collaboration with other organizations and with Twin Cities communities through events, knowledge-sharing and networking, workshops, and cultural learning experiences with local organizations or businesses, among other strategies.

## World's Best Workforce

### 2022-2023 World's Best Workforce Report

Each Minnesota school district and charter school is required to set goals related to each of the components of the World's Best Workforce and to report on their progress towards those goals with data and short narratives. Yinghua Academy achievements, strategies, goals, and results from the 2022-2023 school year are summarized in the World's Best Workforce Report in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11. The Yinghua Academy School Board approved this report for submission to the Minnesota Department of Education on November 20, 2023. The 2022-2023 World's Best Workforce Report also is published as a section of the annual report on [www.yinghuaacademy.org](http://www.yinghuaacademy.org) >About Us > School Management > Online WBWF report.

**District or Charter Name:** Yinghua Academy

**WBWF Contact:** Dr. Luyi Lien

**Title:** CEO/Executive Director

**Phone:** 612-788-9095

**Email:** [luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org)

Did you have a Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) approved A&I plan implemented in the 2022–23 school year (SY)?

Yes       No

What year of your Achievement & Integration plan are you reporting on?

Year 1 (3-year plan spans 2023-25 SY)

Year 3 (3-year plan spans 2021–23 SY)

Did you have a Racially Identifiable School (RIS) in the 2022-23 SY?

Yes       No

This report has three parts:

1. **WBWF:** Required for all districts/charters.
2. **A&I:** Required for districts that were implementing an MDE approved A&I plan during the 2022–23 SY. No charter schools should complete this section.
3. **Racially Identifiable School:** Required for districts that were implementing an MDE approved A&I plan for Racially Identifiable Schools during the 2022–23 SY. No charter schools should complete this section.

## Annual Report

**WBWF Requirement:** For each school year, the school board must publish a report in the local newspaper, by mail or by electronic means on the district website.

**A&I Requirement:** Districts must post a copy of their A&I plan, a preliminary analysis on goal progress, and related data on student achievement on their website 30 days prior to the annual public meeting.

**Provide the direct website link to the district's WBWF annual report. If a link is not available, describe how the district disseminates the report to stakeholders:** Annual Reports are published on the school website and distributed electronically to school stakeholders. Find the Yinghua Academy 2022-2023 Annual Report at <https://www.yinghuaacademy.org/about/school-management/>.

**Provide the direct website link to the A&I materials:** Not applicable.

## Annual Public Meeting

**These annual public meetings were to be held in the fall of each school year.**

**WBWF Requirement:** School boards are to hold an annual public meeting to communicate plans for the upcoming school year based on a review of goals, outcomes and strategies from the previous year. Stakeholders should be meaningfully involved, and this meeting is to occur separately from a regularly scheduled school board meeting.

**A&I Requirement:** The public meeting for A&I is to be held at the same time as the WBWF annual public meeting.

**Provide the date of the school board annual public meeting to review progress on the WBWF plan and Achievement and Integration plan for the 2022-23 SY:** The 2022-2023 Annual Public Meeting, where School Board candidates introduced themselves and the School Board Chair reviewed progress on the World's Best Workforce plan, took place in person at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023, in the Yinghua Academy cafeteria.

## Goals and Results

### *All Students Ready for School*

Does your district/charter enroll students in Kindergarten? If no, please skip to the next goal.

Goal 1	Result	Goal Status
Each year 100% of incoming kindergarten students with parental consent will be screened utilizing a kindergarten readiness assessment in their home district	Yinghua received the results of 100% of Early Childhood Screenings completed by incoming kindergartners with parental consent.	<u>X</u> Goal Met (one-year goal)

Goal 2	Result	Goal Status
Before the school year begins, the school has on file immunization records or notarized waivers for 100% of kindergarten students.	Yinghua received 100% of immunization records or notarized waivers for incoming kindergartners.	<u>X</u> Goal Met (one-year goal)

### *All Students in Third Grade Achieving Grade-Level Literacy*

Goal	Result	Goal Status
By the conclusion of FY 2023, the school's third-grade proficiency rates for the most recent four years will average no less than two points higher than the state average in reading.	Yinghua's third-grade proficiency rate remains on track to be ahead of the state average reading level by a minimum of two points. In the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua third-graders were above the state average by 19.6 percentage points. Yinghua's third-grade proficiency has remained over the state average by no less than 8.1 points since the 2020-2021 school year.	<u>X</u> On Track (multi-year goal)

***Close the Achievement Gap(s) Between Student Groups***

Goal 1	Result	Goal Status
<p>Each year, for each subgroup other than English Learners, for which the school has publicly reportable/sufficient counts: the school's proficiency rate will exceed the state-average proficiency rate for the subgroup for each reading and math.</p>	<p>In 2023, both subgroups achieved higher proficiency rates than the state average in math and reading. In math, the Free/Reduced Price Lunch subgroup was 28 percentage points above the state average and the Special Education subgroup was 29.4 percentage points above the state average. In reading, the Free/Reduced Price Lunch subgroup achieved a higher proficiency rate than the state average by 17.2% with a proficiency rate of 50.5%, and the Special Education subgroup was above the state average by 10.3% with a proficiency rate of 35.9%.</p>	<p><u>X</u> Met All (multiple goals)</p>

Goal 2	Result	Goal Status
<p>As published by the Minnesota Department of Education, for each year the school has publicly reportable/sufficient counts of English-Learner students: the school's English Learners will average higher progress towards target than the statewide average, and the school's percentage of English Learners who met or exceeded their targets will exceed the statewide average.</p>	<p>Yinghua's English Learners achieved this goal in both parts, as students averaged 75.4% progress toward the target, 28.1 percentage points higher than the state average, and 45.8% of students met or exceeded their targets which is 16.9 percentage points above Minnesota state average.</p>	<p><u>X</u> Goal Met (one-year goal)</p>

***All Students Career and College-Ready by Graduation***

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p>Each year, the school will administer a nationally-normed assessment in at least 4th and 8th grades. Each year, the school's percentage of 4th and 8th grade students who meet or exceed the nationally-normed average for their respective grade, will exceed 50%.</p>	<p>In the 2022-2023 school year, Yinghua's fourth and eighth grade students achieved these goals in both subjects by a range of 18.29 to 43.82 percentage points. In fourth grade, 93.82% of students met or exceeded the nationally normed average in math and 68.29% in reading. In eighth grade, 76.74% met or exceeded the nationally normed average in math and 73.25% achieved it in reading.</p>	<p><u>X</u> Met All (multiple goals)</p>

***All Students Graduate***

Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p>Not applicable. Yinghua serves students in kindergarten through grade 8.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>

## Compliance with Minnesota Statutes

This document fulfills two requirements: By Minnesota Statute, charter schools must publish an annual report, approved by the school's board of directors, covering enrollment, attrition, governance, management, staffing, finance, academics, innovation, and future plans; and charter schools must submit the World's Best Workforce report required by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). The respective statutes from which these requirements stem are 124E.16, Subd. 2; and 120B.11.

## Yinghua Academy Contact Information

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### **Yinghua Academy** (Minnesota School District #4140)

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## Reports Submitted

The Yinghua Academy School Board (Board of Directors) voted to approve the 2022-2023 Annual Report and 2022-2023 World's Best Workforce report on November 20, 2023. On December 1, 2023, the Annual Report was posted to the Friends of Education portal, and the World's Best Workforce Report was uploaded to Minnesota Department of Education report site.

On December 1, 2023, Yinghua Academy published its 2022-2023 Annual Report and 2022-2023 World's Best Workforce report on the school's website. On the same day, the school digitally distributed the two reports to its stakeholders including its board, staff, and current parents.