



West Side Elementary School

- Located in Allegany County, Cumberland, MD
- 400 students
- Title I School- 70% FARMS
- Full Inclusion School

7 years ago...

Why Bilingual Education?

Technology and economic interdependence have made the world a smaller place. Never before have so many people from different countries been able to come together to share knowledge and do business. There is a need for talented and well-trained young people in all fields who are conversant with other cultures and who can communicate well in English and another language.



Benefits of Bilingual Education

- Bilingual learning enhances elementary students' intellectual development and basic skills and performance, and improves a child's understanding of his/her native language. (Center for Applied Linguistics)
- Studying a second language has positive effects on memory, listening, and critical thinking skills. (Hakuta, 1986)
- Children who are exposed to both foreign language and culture in elementary school better internalize an understanding and acceptance of cultural differences and diversity. (Bamford & Mizokawa, 1991)
- Students that study a second language in elementary school have improved overall school performance and superior problem –solving skills. (Bamford & Mizokawa, 1991)
- All other things being equal, monolingual and bilingual children meet major language developmental milestones at similar times. (King & Fogle, Georgetown Univ.)
- The human brain is more open to linguistic development between birth and preadolescence, and children who learn a language before adolescence are more likely to develop native-like pronunciation. (Strozer, 1994)
- Multilingual exposure improves not only cognitive skills, but also social skills as they are better communicators. (Kinzler, University of Chicago, 2016)



Learning a second language at an early age:

- Has a positive effect on intellectual growth and enriches and enhances a child's mental development
- Leaves students with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening
- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language
- Gives a child the ability to communicate with people s/he would otherwise not have the chance to know
- Opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries
- Gives a student a head start in language requirements for college
- Increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language is a real asset.

(Center for Applied Linguistics)



Why Mandarin Chinese?

- Mandarin Chinese is classified by the US Government as a Category IV language - one of the most difficult languages for a native English speaker to learn. It is best learned in elementary school. (US Defense Language Institute)
- Research suggests that the more difficult the language to learn, the greater the overall cognitive benefits. (Center for Applied Linguistics)
- Attaining fluency in a second language, particularly a more difficult language, makes learning additional languages much easier. (Center for Applied Linguistics)
- The 4 most widely spoken languages in the world:
- Chinese: 2 billion+ people (Mandarin Chinese = 1 billion+)
- © English: 514 million
- Hindustani: 496 million
- Spanish: 425 million (Ethnologue, 13th Ed.)





Why Mandarin Chinese?

Number of pre-university students in China studying English: 200 million

Number of pre-university students in the US studying Chinese: 24,000

(US Dept. of Education, 2005)

 In 2007 Chinese passed English as the most-used language on the Internet.

(World Intellectual Property Organization)

 Mandarin Chinese has been designated a "Critical Language" by the US Department of Defense, and other sectors of the US Government have deemed Mandarin Chinese one of the most important languages to learn. (US General Accounting Office)







Immersion programs are the most effective type of foreign language program. Students can be expected to reach higher levels of second language proficiency than students in other school-based language programs. Over the past thirty years, due in large part to the success of immersion programs, there has been a shift away from teaching language in isolation and toward integrating language and content - the essence of immersion programs. (Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition)





- Immersion language programs are the fastest growing and most effective type of foreign language instruction. (Center for Applied Linguistics)
- Immersion language learning is NOT the traditional US model for learning foreign languages in an isolated language class 1 hour a day several days a week.
- In partial immersion language programs, a portion of the regular school curriculum is taught in English and a portion is taught in the target language.
- In immersion programs, the foreign language is the medium for meaningful content instruction rather than merely the object of instruction.



West Side Partial Immersion Program Goals

- Students will be bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate
- Students will be able to meet or exceed State and local content standards in all subject areas
- Students will be at or above grade-level in English language skills
- Students will develop high Mandarin fluency & literacy
- Students will develop an increased cultural awareness
- Students will be sensitive to and appreciative of our diverse society

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How it looks at West Side

- Began 2012-2013 school year.
- 20 kindergarten students in each cohort
- 86 students in the program currently
- Immersion language learning will be carefully structured to ensure that instruction quickly becomes comprehensible. We will be instructing 50% in English and 50% in Mandarin Chinese.
- STEM content is instructed in Mandarin Chinese (math, science, technology)
- There is a strong technology connection. The classroom is a high tech atmosphere with a Smart Board and personal tech devices for all students (IPAD, Yoga), etc.
- The teachers are native speaking, fully credentialed early childhood/ elementary teachers and partner with a current K-5 teacher at WS
- The classroom has high visual support designed to reinforce Mandarin language learning.



Sample Schedule (G2-G3)

- 9:00 9:10 G2 opening / calendar
- 9:10 10:30 G2 math
- 10:30 11:00 G2 Science / Chinese language
- 11:00 1:00 lunch, recess, G3 resources class
- 1: 00 2: 30 G3 math
- 2:30 3:00 G3 Science / Chinese language



Program Achievements

- 2014, 2015, 2016 Won 1st Prize in the Chinese Bridge Competition
- 82% of students met or exceeded expectations on the PARCC Assessment- Well above average performance on district, state, and cross-state overall PARCC scores
- CHIP students outperform age level peers on district assessments
- 97% of students passed the CYT
- Professional Visits from other Partial Immersion Programs



Math Curriculum: Eureka Math

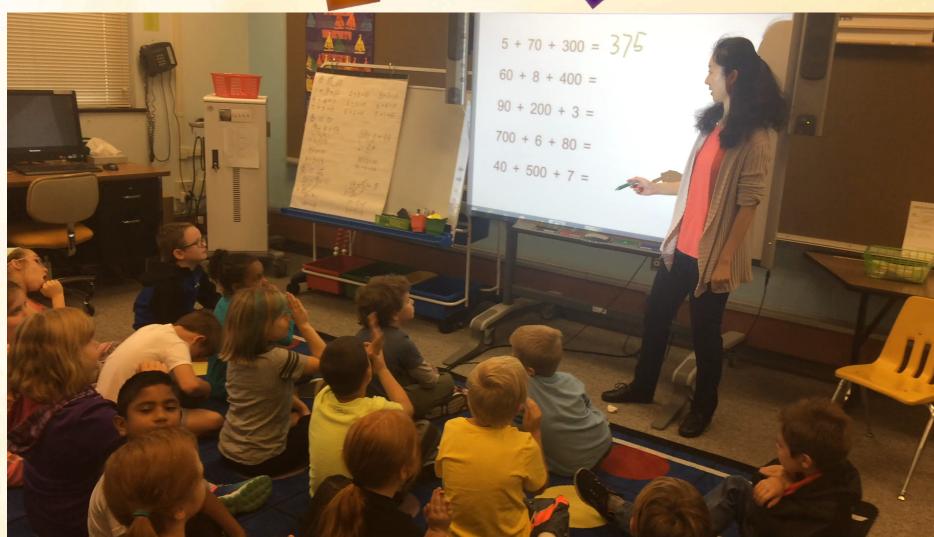
- Free resources: student workbooks, teacher editions, assessment
- Daily math talks to develop number sense and increase Mandarin expressive language
- Daily fluency practice to develop mental math

How math instruction looks in the Chinese Immersion Classroom

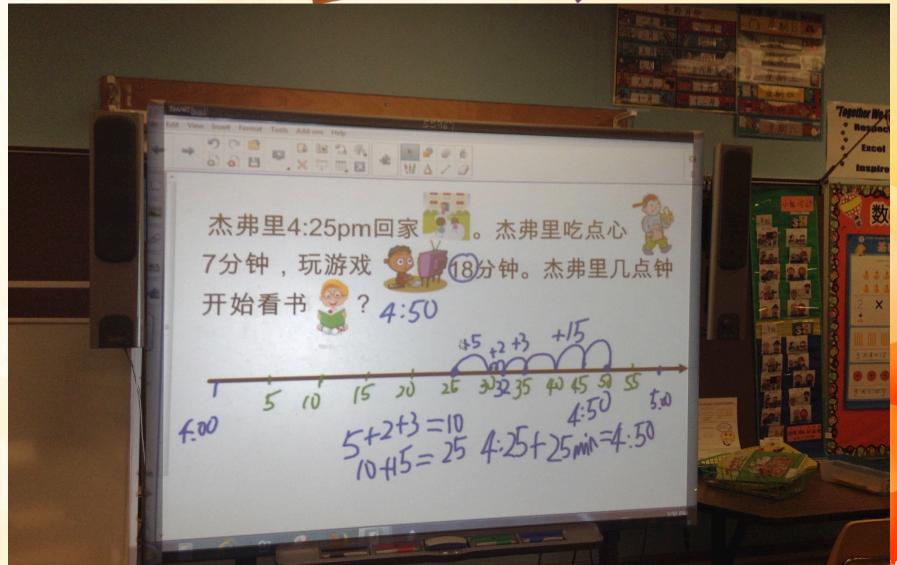
- Daily fluency practice
- Whole class minilesson
- Flexible groups
- Independent work
- Reinforce home learning: Table games, iPad apps,

Making math fun

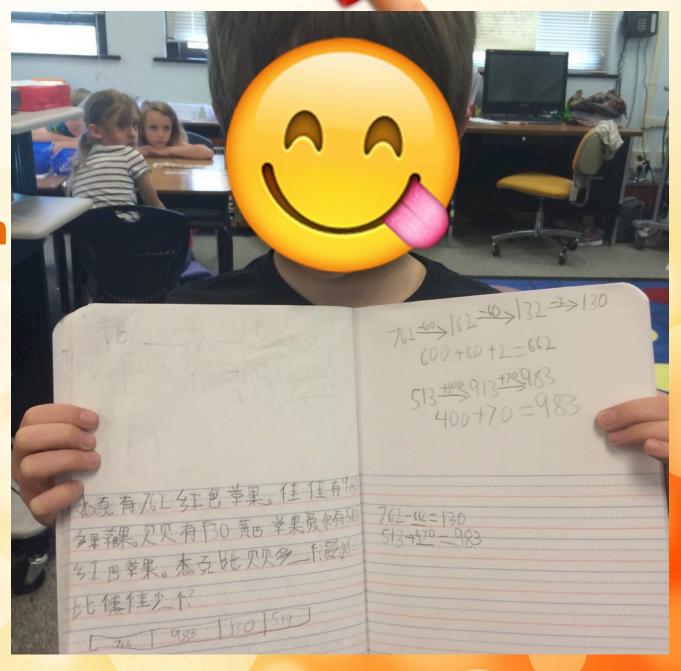






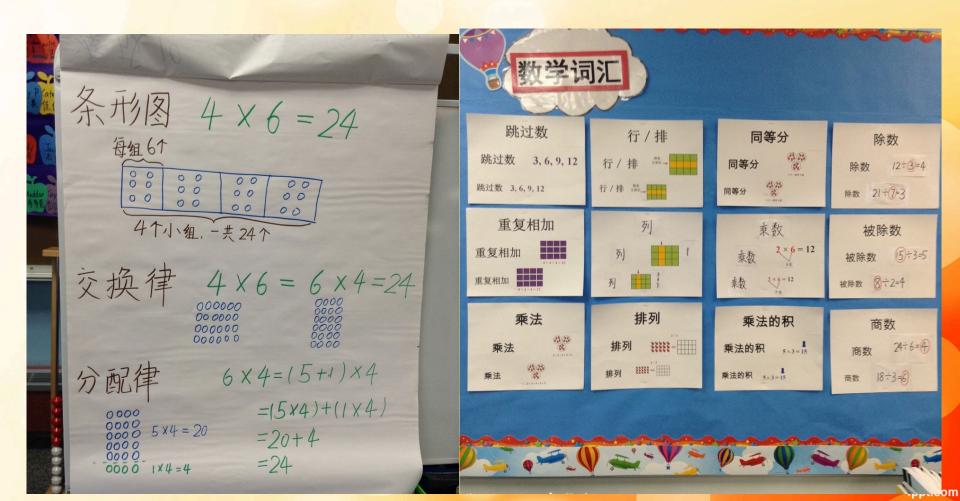


Selfcreated word problem



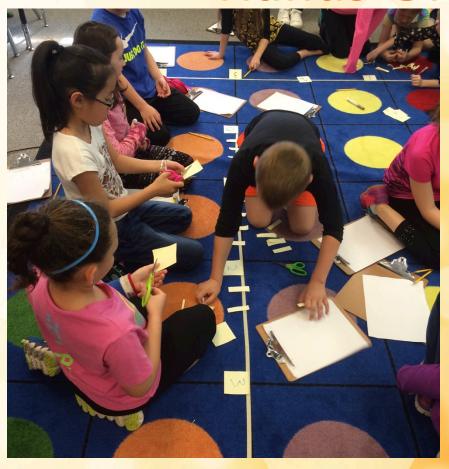


Math Strategies and Vocabulary Visual Support





Hands-On Activities













Cultural Experiences

- Partnership with World Artists Experience
- Cultural Visits from Chinese Artists at WS
- Chinese New Year Community Celebration
- GK-2 Washington, DC field trips: visit to National Zoo, Freer-Sackler Museum, Chinatown, Chinese Market, ICE! Exhibit
- Chinese Cultural Summer School Program
- G3 Philadelphia Trip
- G4 New York Trip
- G5 China Trip



Chinese Trip- April, 2018







Chinese Summer School Cultural Program





Chinese Partial Immersion Program



2014-16 1st Place Chinese Bridge Competition





K-5 Chinese Partial Immersion Program West Side Elementary School

Thank you!

谢谢!