

Mandarin Chinese

Course Descriptions

Mandarin Chinese is a course that is offered primarily via distance learning. As Mandarin Chinese is classified as one of the world's more difficult languages to learn due to the language's written characters and tonal changes, the traditional levels of learning a world language have altered to insure appropriate acquisition. Therefore, Level 1 will be completed over a three-year time frame, while Level 2 will be completed over a two-year time frame. All subsequent levels will be completed in the traditional one-year time frame.

Six full time teachers offer instruction from component schools or from the BOCES Information and Technology division.

Chinese Level 1A

Pre-requisite: Students will be screened as per District specifications. Generally, students must show evidence of high Math and English Language Arts scores on standardized tests. Classroom teachers will also be consulted to give a recommendation for inclusion in the program based on student interest, work ethic and integrity.

This introductory course will begin a three-year program of study to achieve Checkpoint A of the New York State standards for the study of a world language. It will present students with the rudimentary basics of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Basic, formative grammatical concepts are introduced and practiced. Students will become familiar with differing tones and their impact on the meaning of words. Students will learn to pronounce the Chinese characters through the use of pinyin, a phonics based system using English sounds and letters that serves as a helpful transition in the recognition of Chinese characters. Students will learn to recognize, read and write Chinese Simplified Characters.

Chinese Level 1B

Pre-requisite: Chinese 1A

This course will continue to advance instruction in Checkpoint A of the New York State standards for the study of a world language. Basic, formative grammatical concepts are further introduced and practiced. Movement is made to assist students in reading and writing Chinese with less use of pinyin. Sentence patterns are taught and vocabulary enhanced. Students will converse in mini conversations on a wide range of topics. Students will begin to write a small series of sentences in Chinese characters for the purpose of reading and sharing orally.

Chinese Level 1C

Pre-requisite: Chinese 1B

This course will complete instruction in Checkpoint A of the New York State standards for the study of a world language. Basic, formative grammatical concepts are practiced, reviewed and refined with the intent for success on the New York State Proficiency level. Vocabulary will continue to be expanded upon. Students will converse in Chinese with each other and one-on-one with the teacher. Students will be expected to write a paragraph of at least 50 Chinese characters without the use of pinyin at the termination of this course. Practice in listening and reading will also be stressed.

Chinese Level 2A

Pre-requisite: Chinese 1C

This is the **first** of a two year sequence that will progress through the second level of traditional language study. This is a sequential course that continues the teaching of Chinese beginning at the Checkpoint B of the New York State standards. The student enters the course with basic concepts of Chinese. Students build upon vocabulary, grammar and character writing. Students will begin to express themselves with some degree of fluency and fluidity in all four language skills of speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

Chinese Level 2B

Pre-requisite: Chinese 2A

This is the **second** of a two year sequence that progresses through the second level of traditional language study. It is available only to students who have successfully completed the Mandarin Chinese sequence of courses through Level 2a. The student enters the course with solid skills and concepts of second language learning. The student also shows advancement progression of skills particularly in the writing and speaking of Chinese. In the sequential course Mandarin Chinese 2b, the student will continue to build vocabulary, grammar and character writing to show extended knowledge of the language to where the student is able to sustain lengthier conversations in the target language and write in Chinese with an element of fluidity and continuity. This is approached through all four areas of language learning: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The student advances in ability of expression with an increased degree of fluency and fluidity from the Mandarin Chinese 2a course.

Chinese Level 3

Prerequisite: Chinese Level 2A & 2B

This course focuses on the advancement of the four skills of language learning: speaking, listening, reading and writing. It is designed to increase proficiency so that students are capable of communicating with a native speaker in such areas as socializing, obtaining information and expressing personal feelings. Grammar and vocabulary are studied through a variety of activities that deal with these areas. Increased emphasis will be placed on the writing of Chinese characters to expand the student's ability to write in Chinese. Students at this level are preparing for the Checkpoint B exam in June. Successful completion of this exam will provide students with a World Language sequence thus fulfilling one of the Advanced Regents Diploma requirements.

Chinese Level 4 (AP)

Prerequisite: Chinese Level 3

The course is designed according to College Board AP requirements. If the curriculum is accepted by the College Board, students will have the option to take the AP examination. The AP Chinese language and Culture course is designed to be comparable to a fourth semester (or the equivalent) college/university course in Mandarin Chinese. The course prepares students to demonstrate their level of Chinese proficiency across the three communicative modes: Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational. Students will develop necessary knowledge of the Chinese Language, including pronunciation, vocabulary, idiomatic expression, grammatical structures, and written Characters. The course will also develop the students' awareness and appreciation of the culture of Chinese-speaking people. Students will learn about various aspects of contemporary Chinese society and will compare Chinese culture with their own to help broaden their world view. Students will be exposed to a wide range of authentic materials of Chinese Language and culture. Students will strengthen their effective and independent learning strategies by applying their cultural knowledge in written texts and spoken language messages. The interpersonal mode involves spontaneous two-way interaction sustained for 2 minutes. Students will be able to express their personal views on a variety of topics. Students will continue to develop the ability to respond to Chinese people in an appropriate way. Students will learn computer typing of Chinese characters although handwriting skill is still essential. The assessment of the course will be AP exams or an internal Level 4 exam.

Mandarin 1 (High School Elective/Dual Credit)

Prerequisite: none (some districts may require a Regents sequence in a World Language)

Mandarin 1(1 unit of credit) introduces students to the official language of the People's Republic of China (and also of Taiwan) in all its amazing facets. Focusing on Checkpoint A of the NYS Syllabus, this course provides students who have no prior knowledge of Chinese, the tools they will need to further their study of Mandarin at the high school or college level. In particular, students will learn, and are expected to master, grammatical and syntactical structures that are quite unlike those employed in English. Students begin by learning "pinyin"- the official Chinese phonetic spelling system which uses the English alphabet, and then moves to reading and writing Chinese characters (simplified version- which is used in mainland China). Successful students will be able to carry on basic conversation in Chinese, employing the vocabulary and grammatical structures learned in the course. Students will also be able to read and write simple paragraphs in Chinese characters as well as understand short conversations. Students will also be exposed to a variety of aspects of ancient and modern

Chinese culture, with a particular emphasis on those aspects that are deeply intertwined with the language itself. The course is a dual credit course through MVCC. OHM BOCES students who pass the course will get six (6) credits from MVCC and one (1) Carnegie unit of high school credit.

Text: Chinese Link Level 1 Part 1, published by Prentice Hall.

Mandarin 2 (High School Elective/Dual Credit)

Prerequisite: Mandarin 1

Mandarin 2 (1 unit of credit) presents an opportunity for students who have successfully completed Chinese Language and Culture (or Mandarin 1) to further their abilities to read, write, speak and understand Mandarin. Mandarin 2 continues to emphasize Checkpoint A of the NYS Syllabus. Mandarin 2 reviews and expands the work of Mandarin 1 by building and strengthening students' communication skills, as well as their understanding and mastery of grammatical structures. In Mandarin 2, students participate regularly in, and are expected to understand, longer conversations. The course also increases the level at which students translate, write and read. As part of the requirements for this course, students write short essays, letters and dialogues employing the vocabulary and sentence structures learned in both their first level and this course. Cultural material is presented through the textbooks, class discussion, various forms of media, and first-hand accounts of those who were born in or have lived in China. One (1) Carnegie unit of high school credit will be earned by successful completion of the course.

Text: Chinese Link (Level I Part I and Part II) published by Prentice Hall.