



CHINESE AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (CSL) at ACLS

- What is ACLS?

ACLS stands for Acton Chinese Language School. It is a non-profit organization aiming at providing an educational and cultural setting for youngsters and adults alike in Acton and its neighboring towns to learn Chinese language, traditions, and culture. The school offer classes on each Sunday afternoon starting from 2:00 in **Acton's R. J. Grey Junior High School** in regular school semesters. You can find more details of the school at the school website:

<http://www.acls-ma.org>.

- Brief history of ACLS

ACLS was founded in the spring of 2003. Since then, it has grown significantly over the past five years. The current number of registered students approaches close to 600 in both language and culture programs. Special thanks are extended to Mr. William Ryan, Superintendent of the Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, Mr. Malcolm Reid and Mr. Craig Hardimon, past and current Principal of R. J. Grey Junior High, Ms. Linda Mathinos, Director of Community Education, and Ms. Susan Horn, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction/Community Education, for their tremendous understanding and cooperation over the six years since the birth of ACLS.

- What is the CSL program at ACLS?

CSL classes are designed for children from non-mandarin speaking families to develop basic skills of Chinese language and to get initial exposure to Chinese culture. We believe this is one of the unique features of ACLS, compared with other Chinese language schools in the Greater Boston area. It is also one of the many ways that ACLS has been working very hard on, since Day 1, when the school opened, to give back to our home communities which ACLS is nurtured from and supported by. Currently, the school has four levels and four classes with 56 students. ACLS will open one more level of CSL class in 2009 fall semester.

The next few pages describe in great detail the CSL program (prepared by a group of kids-loving and dedicated CSL teachers at ACLS), e.g., text book, curriculum.

- Who should you to contact if you want to know more about the CSL program at ACLS?

Rixin Li, Associate Dean of ACLS Language Program

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- How to enroll your kids to the CSL program at ACLS?

The school will host walk-in registration for 2009 fall semester on **June 14, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** in the big cafeteria at Acton's R. J. Grey Junior High School. Please visit us and we shall answer all your questions regarding to the enrollment to CSL program at ACLS for 2009 fall semester.

Alternatively, you can also register on line, just read the registration instruction from our school website and follow the easy steps described within.

General Course Description

CSL classes are designed for the children from non-mandarin speaking families to develop basic skills of Chinese language and get initial exposure to Chinese culture. There will be 5 levels of CSL classes offered at ACLS: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5. It will take one academic year (Fall semester and Spring semester) to finish each level. A student who has completed one level of study and passed the evaluation can be admitted to the next level in the following school year.

Starting from fall 2009, ACLS has used Better Chinese series teaching material for all classes of CSL. CSL1 and CSL2 use My First Chinese Words series or materials within the series; CSL3, CSL4, and CSL5 use My First Chinese Readers. For more detailed information about these textbook series, please visit www.betterchinese.com.

Students will also use CD or online lesson access to review what they learned in the classroom, play additional exercises and watch level-appropriate stories, making learning Chinese relevant and fun! In addition, parents can participate in the learning progress at home.

A brief description for each level is as followings:

Level 1 focus on stimulating students' interest of learning Chinese language and culture. Teachers will help students build up preliminary listening and speaking capabilities with emphasis on correct pronunciation of four tones, most common vocabulary, and recognition of 30-40 simple Chinese Characters. This course is designed to allow our youngest students (5-6 years old) get their initial exposure of Chinese in a fun and entertaining environment. In addition to the 12 introductory booklets from betterchinese.com, songs, rhymes, games, and classroom activities will also be part of the curriculum. Topics covered by the 12 introductory booklets include basic greetings/phrases, shapes, places, tastes, seasons, animals, insects, sports and more.

Level 2 is designed for young beginners (6-7 years old) with no prior exposure to Chinese to build basic listening and speaking capabilities through 36 easy to read short story books. These stories contain meaningful sentence structures, teaching students to communicate in full sentences, not memorizing individual characters. The series also use overlapping content and a predictable narrative structure to provide a springboard for creative play-acting. This allows children to quickly apply what they learn in real-life situations and start communicating in Chinese right away. Students will learn over 150 words covering 22 topics from a child's world, like family, friends, food, animals, home, school and more. An Audio CD and on-line license will also be provided to students to hear the correct pronunciation of words and learn as naturally

Level 3 is designed for beginning students (7 and older) with or without prior exposure to Chinese to learn the fundamentals of Chinese conversation in the standard Mandarin dialect through textbook, workbooks, classroom lectures and culture activities, as well as animated on-line resources. The teaching and learning will focus on basic Chinese sentences used commonly in daily life situations and in a spiral-up structure that builds upon and applies previous materials.

Level 3 will use My First Chinese Readers Volume 1 as textbook. It covers greetings, names, nationalities, school, family, home, dates, fruit, school supplies, food and more. Supplementary materials including cultural content and Pin-yin (phonics system for mandarin) will also be introduced.

Level 4 is designed for students who successfully completed level 3 or equivalent. Textbook for this level is Volume 2 of My first Chinese Readers, which covers colors, clothes, opposites, sports, pets, vehicles, prices, directions, weather, comparisons and more.

Level 5 is designed for students who successfully completed level 4 or equivalent. Textbook for this level is Volume 3 of My first Chinese Readers, which covers phone calls, jobs, directions, the zoo, playing with friends, classes, eating at a Chinese restaurant, body parts and more.