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| **Mandarin I – World Language** |

**2025-2026 SYLLABUS**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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| Instructor | Mrs. Shu-Fen Pai |
| Email | spai[@vcs.net](mailto:alin@vcs.net) |
| Office Hours | Wednesdays and Fridays after school till 3:00pm |
| Room Number(s) | E 221 |
| Zoom Room Link | https://vcs.zoom.us/j/9889652356 |
| Course URL/Moodle Page | http://learn.vcs.net |

# COURSE OVERVIEW

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| Course Number | 0458 |
| Course Format | Traditional  Online |
| Credit Hours | 2 semesters of 5 units each |
| Dual Credit | Yes  No |
| Course Prerequisites | B or above on Mandarin I |
| Course Description | |  | | --- | | This course will offer students an introduction to Mandarin. Through the course, students will acquire the four basic language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) as well learn about the history of China, culture and traditional customs. By the end of the year, students will have learned grammatical rules, character writing and character formation, and the phonetic symbols. Much of the daily practice will consist of listening and communication activities that will be done with classmates in groups. | |
| Required Textbook(s) or Apps | Integrated Chinese 1 (4th edition) textbook & workbook  Notability, Quizlet, Gimkit, Kahoot, Google Classroom, IChineseReader (group order later) |
| Additional Materials Needed | * Have your iPad/ computer capable of reading/typing Simplified or Traditional Chinese fonts. * One 3-hole binder with at least 5 tabs. A notebook or plenty of notebook paper. * 3x5 Blank index cards (make character cards) * Red pens, sharpen pencils, white board markers |
| Fees |  |

**PERSONAL NOTE FROM INSTRUCTOR TO LEARNERS**

## Tips for succeeding in class

Your motivation, commitment, and engagement are the key for succeeding in learning Chinese. Students are expected to do their own homework, submit their own thoughts for their own writing assignments. During class-time, students are also expected to have conversations in Chinese with each other about various topics. As long as you follow the teacher’s instruction closely, you will be able to learn in happiness and get a good grade. Let’s do it together!

# COURSE OUTLINE

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| Quarter | Units | Major Assignments |
| 1st Quarter | 1. Phonetic System, Greeting, Family, Moon Festival | * Homework, Class Work, Quizzes, Tests, Presentations |
| 2nd Quarter | 1. Dates & Time, Hobbies, Visit Friends | * Homework, Class Work, Quizzes, Tests, Presentations, Mid-Term |
| 3rd Quarter | 1. Making Appointment, Studying Chinese, LNY Festival | * Homework, Class Work, Quizzes, Tests, Presentations |
| 4th Quarter | 1. School, Shopping, Transportation | * Homework, Class Work, Quizzes, Tests, Presentations, Finals |

## Overarching Biblical Theme/Verse

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."（John 8:12）

耶稣说：「我是世界的光。跟从我的，就不在黑暗里走，必要得着生命的光。」. (约翰福音八章十二节)

耶穌說：「我是世界的光。跟從我的，就不在黑暗裏走，必要得着生命的光。」.。(約翰福音八章十二節）

I would like to have students memorize the verse in both Chinese and English language to remind them Jesus is the true light. We will walk in the light as we follow Him. The promise of the verse is available in our daily life, found in our classroom, our study, our family, our friendship. As students study Chinese language, culture, and history, they will learn many Chinese characters created with Biblical meaning. The similarity of Chinese culture with Jewish culture, include the festival celebration (ex. the Red couplets during LNY vs. the blood of the lamb on Passover)

# VCHS SCHOOLWIDE ACADEMIC POLICIES

Detailed academic policies are found in the student handbook, including absent work policies, iPad expected use, homework guidelines, testing policies, and academic integrity expectations. All VCHS students and teachers agree to follow these school-wide policies.

# COURSE POLICIES

## Homework Policy

Exercises from worksheets and other materials, etc., will be given during each semester. Students are expected to complete assignments and review at home each nightand submitted before the beginning of each class. Each student will receive **3 homework passes** per semester. **After that, no later homework will be accepted or graded** (except appropriate reasons such as illness or emergencies). **Note: Any late work will be graded 70%. No credit for overdue a week assignment.**

A homework pass cannot be used to excuse classwork if the student was present in class during the activity or assignment. If the teacher allows students to begin working on homework in class, that portion of the assignment is not eligible for a homework pass. Classwork completed during class is a fundamental part of the instructional process and contributes to the student’s understanding and mastery of the material.

• Students are not permitted to use all of their homework passes consecutively (e.g., three back-to-back homework gradebook entries) without approval from a school counselor.

## Discipline Policy

* + 1st Consequence: Verbal warning
  + 2nd Consequence: Participation Points lost. Discussion with student after class.
  + 3rd Consequence: Student will report to the office immediately. Parents will be contacted and a referral will be issued.

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## Grade Categories

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| Classwork/Homework/Participation | 15% |
| Progress Assessment | 20% |
| Mastery Assessment | 30% |
| Final Exam/Mid-Term Exam | 15% |
| Presentation Assessment | 20% |

## Late/Make-Up Work Policies

Detailed information about Classwork/Homework Excused passes and the VCHS policy for make-up work after an absence can be found in the VCHS Student/Parent Handbook. Students should read the handbook for (1) details about deadlines for turning in work after an absence, (2) when homework passes can, and (3) to find out how to request work extensions due to extenuating circumstances.

In this course, students receive 3 homework passes each semester. (See Homework Policy)

The primary goals of homework in the World Language Department are to practice skills, reinforce content, and prime students for the next class’s learning. Teachers are committed to assigning homework that will help students not only learn the language they are studying but also gain fluency and comfort with it. Most homework and classwork in the World Language Department is graded on effort and corrected in class; students earn full credit by attempting the work to the best of their ability and accurately correcting their work in class under the direction of the teacher.

Though teachers follow the VCHS policies regarding length of homework assigned (≤30 minutes per class meeting in most classes; ≥1 hour for honors and AP courses) and try to be sensitive to the homework load beyond merely their students’ World Language class, students will inevitably encounter pockets of higher than usual homework loads when many tests and or major assignments are due around the same time. Research indicates that chronic, sustained stress is detrimental both to learning and wellness, students should stop homework if they are exhausted or excessively stressed and should communicate with their teacher and/or counselor.

## PowerSchool Input Agreement

1. PowerSchool should be updated approximately once a week with at least one new assignment and any late/missing work that was turned in by the student during that week. If assignments cannot be graded, at minimum the teacher should log assignments as collected/missing.
2. The deadline for PowerSchool updates is Friday at noon so that work collected on Fridays will not be included and updated, grades reflect the previous Friday-Thursday.
3. Late and absent work will be updated in PowerSchool within one week of its submission.
4. Quizzes and tests will be graded and input in PowerSchool within one week of the quiz/ test if everyone take the quiz/ test at the same time. Make up or absence will cause grades input delay for everyone.
5. Projects and essays will be graded and returned within two weeks of submission.
6. Students should expect one homework assignment per class day except on holidays. This will be approximately 40 homework assignments per semester.
7. Students should expect 1-3 quizzes for each lesson, one test after one lesson, and 2-4 presentation assessments per semester)
8. In Mandarin classes, the notation of “m” on an assignment in PowerSchool means that the assignment is missing. The score will be “0” until the student takes missing quizzes and tests within the time frame outlined in school policy.
9. A grade of “0” on PowerSchool means either that the student earned no points correct on that assignment, or that the assignment was not turned in. A comment explaining the grade will be entered along with the score.
10. Please contact the teacher as soon as possible when you have any question regarding PowerSchool or this agreement.

## **Redemption Policy**

*Please do the following before taking an exam:*

* Study to the best of your ability.
* Ask questions in class when you do not understand a concept.
* Come in for extra help after school if you still do not understand a concept.

*If you have followed the three previous steps and still have a low grade (below C) on your test, I will give you extra help during tutoring time, and you may take the same test with up to 80% grade.*

# Department Late Work & Redemption Policy

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| **Category** | **Late Work Policy** | **Redemption Policy** |
| **Mastery Assessments** | Students who are present in class are expected to attempt assessments: tests, quizzes, presentations, etc. As a result, there is no late work policy for these assessments beyond the VCHS absence policy.  **Note: No make-up test/quiz unless you are absent from school.** | * There is no redemption for the audio portion of a test. * Test redemption will involve a retake of the test, a portion of the test, or an equal but alternate assessment based on the teacher’s discretion. The redemption opportunity will be the same for all students but may vary test to test. * Before completing the retake, students must come in for tutoring in order to maximize their learning experience. * Students can earn up to up to 80% grade improvement due to test redemption. Teachers have the discretion to allow more with department head or counselor approval for extenuating circumstances. * Students must reach out to the teacher via email to schedule tutoring and a retake within one week of receiving their test score. * Students can only use one test redemption opportunity per semester unless the student comes in for at least two tutoring sessions with the teacher before the test and receives below a C on the test. Under these conditions, a student may use additional test redemption at the teacher’s discretion to ensure that students have maximized their tutoring time. |
| **Presentational Assessments** | Students who are present in class are expected to attempt assessments: tests, quizzes, presentations, etc. As a result, there is no late work policy for these assessments beyond the VCHS absence policy. However, if a presentation is one completed outside of class—such as a video project—it may be turned in until the end of the lesson for up to **80%** credit. Late out-of-class presentations are not eligible for redemption since students have the benefit of extra time and hearing the teacher’s feedback on the work of their peers. | * All students have the opportunity to give their presentational assessments in front of the class when they are present or when they return after an absence. For this reason, presentational assessments are only eligible for redemption if the student has first attempted the presentation in front of the class. * Students may use one redemption opportunity in this category per semester * Students must reach out to the teacher via email within one week of their score being provided to them to schedule redemption. * Students will redo their presentational assessment after school on a date determined by the teacher and must bring a minimum of 3 students with them as an audience. * Students will receive the average of their two scores (original and redemption). |
| **Class Work/**  **Homework** | Homework and classwork are intended for practice and, as such, are largely graded on effort. This work is often discussed and evaluated in class, eliminating much of the potential benefit if it is not completed on time. (Please see the Homework Policy above for details.) | Homework and classwork are largely graded on effort rather than mastery. As a result, there is no redemption if the homework was graded based on effort (this includes homework corrected in class on which students can earn full credit for correcting their mistakes). However, any homework that is graded on accuracy is eligible for redemption. Students may resubmit a homework assignment that was graded for accuracy and earn up to 70% on their redo so long as it is submitted before the unit test. Students may take advantage of a maximum of three homework redemption opportunities per semester. |

# **Course Format**

**Instructional Methods**

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| Lecture | Stations |
| Student Collaboration | Inquiry-based Learning |
| Learning by Teaching | Lab |
| Student Demonstrations | Teacher Demonstrations |
| Workshops | Peer Tutoring |
| Other: Peer Editing/grading |  |

**Role of the iPad**

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| Research | Organization |
| Communication | Creation |
| Formative Assessment | Other: |

# Course Assessments

**Formative Assessments**

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| Pre-Assessment | Benchmark |
| Written Reflections | Class Deliverables |
| Polls/Surveys | Checks for Understanding |
| Exit Tickets | Homework |
| Class Participation | In-class Activities |
| Quizzes | Other: |

**Summative Assessments**

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| Unit Exams | Mid-Term Exam | Final Exam |
| Papers | Projects | Performances |
| Speeches | Benchmark | Presentations |
| Portfolios | Other: |  |

Class Award each semester

Most Improved Award **最佳进步奖 (blue) 6**

Best Effort Award **最佳努力奖** (blue) 6

Best Creativity Award **最佳创意奖** (gold)6

Best Team Player Award **最佳合作奖** (gold) 6

Best Citizenship Award **最佳公民奖** (red) 6

Best Helper Award **最佳热心助人奖** (red)6

# Academic Content Standards

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| VCS ESLRS  *VCS teachers are committed to teaching to these comprehensive ESLRs on a daily basis.* | VCS students will:   1. Discover and develop their unique God-given talents to, as Jesus taught, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “your neighbor as yourself” through their personal Quests for Excellence. 2. Develop extraordinary success involving Academic Achievement, Artistic Beauty and Athletic distinction to serve God, their families, their communities and the world. |
| Academic Content Standards  *Valley Christian Schools (VCS) sets the highest academic standards for all subjects at all grade levels. Fortunately, as a private school, Valley Christian Schools has the unique opportunity to select and develop K-12 standards and curriculum. While state and national common core standards mandate the skills students are taught in public schools, Valley Christian Schools is not compelled to adopt government curriculum standards.* | * ISTE-S * ACSI-BI * NSFLI 1-5 |

-------------------Detach and return to teacher by the deadline as an assignment---------------

Student print name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent print name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_