

How to Promote Chinese Program

Hua Lin, Albany High School

Paper Abstract:

A few years ago, Albany City School District's Chinese program was facing a big challenge to attract student enrollment when the author was just hired to replace the teacher who was retiring.

The district's only high school Chinese program fell to a part-time position. It was decided to open two new pilot Chinese classes in the most challenging school of the three middle schools in the district, simply because of the high turnouts of the Spanish teachers.

To save this program, a lot of efforts had been made in the past three years, including networking with the guidance counselors and school staff, presentations in the middle schools, the monthly Chinese Club's Teahouse events at the high school, and establishing the National Chinese Honor Society for the higher-level students, etc.

During the pandemic, impressed by our high-quality online Chinese instruction, the district decided to open an online Chinese program at all three middle schools. That caused the hire of a new part-time teaching position for this school year, expecting it will become a full-time position in the next school year.

In this presentation, the author will share many details and aspects of promoting the Chinese program.

Presenter's Bio:

Hua Lin is currently teaching Mandarin Chinese I – IV at the Albany High School of the Albany City School District. Prior to that, she has taught in two private boarding schools, Emma Willard School for Girls and Shattuck St. Mary's School. Hua has a diverse live experiences and work backgrounds. She holds a Master of Art in Teaching from the Clarkson University, a Master of Science in Information Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Art in German language and literature from the Sichuan International Studies University. Hua lives in Albany, NY with her husband and the youngest daughter. Her first daughter graduated from the Engineering School at UC Berkley last year. Her second daughter is a freshman at the University of Virginia. She enjoys teaching, cooking and sharing her perspectives for education. As a life-long learner, and a language lover, she has learned the ASL and she is self-learning Spanish.