

# TOP THREE MANDARIN IMMERSION FAQ



ZEELAND  
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爱上帝，爱孩子，爱学习  
Love God,  
Love Kids,  
Love Learning

If everything is taught in Mandarin in K-2nd grade, how will my child learn English?

Our immersion program is an additive program which simply means that we add in the language instruction without taking out any of the other standards and skills taught in an English classroom. Research confidently shows us that concepts transfer from one language to another regardless of the language of instruction. Your child will learn to fully read and write in English and Mandarin through instruction at school; however, the progression of skills may follow a different timeline than in an English classroom.

If I do not know anything about Mandarin Chinese, how will I understand what my children are learning and help them with school work?

The vast majority of parents in both the Spanish and Mandarin program do not speak the language their child is using every day in the classroom. However, all of our teachers are fluent in English (shhh... don't tell - they will try to hide that from the young students!). Teachers will communicate with parents in English, and any work that is sent home will either be accompanied by an email to parents in English or the child will be able to complete it without parent assistance.

There are times, however, when you will notice the language barrier. Our immersion parents have formed an excellent community where they share ideas such as apps that translate and other resources. If your child does not understand something or struggles to read a book that s/he brought home, it is reassuring to know that we can place the responsibility to learn where it belongs--with the child. If a child struggles with something at home, most parents will simply prompt their child to ask the teacher about it the next day. We do not expect you to teach your child in Mandarin!



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CHRISTIAN  
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**灿燃**  
**Brilla Intensamente**  
**Burn Bright**

## What is the format of the Mandarin Immersion program?

From preschool through 2nd grade, all core subject areas are taught fully in Mandarin Chinese. After the first few weeks of preschool, your child will hear only Mandarin from the classroom teacher and assistant. However, throughout the preschool year, the children will still speak in English much of the time. Once in Kindergarten, we hope that all communication between student and teacher will be in Mandarin after about 6 weeks of school and all peer to peer communication will be fully in Mandarin at about 10-12 weeks into the school year.

During the last 6 weeks of 2nd grade, our Mandarin students receive limited exposure to English instruction which focuses on phonetics, letter formation, and sight words. Rather than adding English as a stand-alone subject, in 3rd - 5th-grade social studies is taught in English; it is through literacy-rich social studies instruction that the children are introduced to the skills of English that do not naturally transfer from Mandarin to English.

In 6th - 8th-grade, our immersion students spend a portion of their day learning core subjects in their immersion language (currently: Math, Bible, Mandarin Language Arts, Social Studies) during the other portion of their day, students from all of the language programs are mixed in their classes and are learning through English (currently: English Language Arts, Science).

Curious enough to learn more? Email Nakisha at [ndejong@zcs.org](mailto:ndejong@zcs.org) and ask for more information regarding Mandarin Immersion.