



# TOP 10 Reasons for Mandarin Immersion



# 1

## Increased Global and Cultural Empathy

Mandarin students at ZCS are trilingual learners. They receive instruction in Mandarin, Spanish, and English over the course of their education. Their hearts, minds, and souls are encouraged and drawn to learn and engage with people from other cultures.

**BENEFIT:** Your child's heart will grow for a new people group and culture. They will develop a deeper respect for people from various cultures and will likely be drawn towards new languages and cultures rather than shying away from "new" or "different."



# 2

## Brain Development

Mandarin language acquisition increases development of:

- Attention
- Empathy
- Reading comprehension
- School performance and engagement
- Problem-solving skills

“Because Mandarin Chinese involves learning language, sounds, drawing, and math all at once, it activates more regions of the brain and improves cognitive development overall, even in adults. In fact, speakers of Mandarin use more of their brain more of the time, unlike English speakers who tend to alternate between left and right hemispheres. In theory, this more balanced brain could lead to greater overall creativity, enhanced problem-solving, and increased emotional intelligence.”

- TESSA International School



# 3

## Mandarin Fluency Comparable with a Post-Secondary Degree

Brain development for elementary-level students is so significant that the fluency of our 8th graders is comparable to (and may exceed) the fluency of those who only study Mandarin in college.

**BENEFIT:** Students approach the university level already fluent in a language, allowing themselves more flexibility in course selection. Some may choose to deepen their Mandarin study, while others may learn a third or fourth language or have more availability to pursue a different academic focus.





# 4

## Experience China through a Christian Lens

100% native-speaking and Christian teachers with incredible life stories and testimonies

**BENEFIT:** The ability to learn about China from those who have experienced it firsthand provides understanding of the nuances and elements of the culture.

### Ran Tao Schlosser's Story

<https://www.zcs.org/teacher-spotlight-ran-tao-schlosser/>

# 5

## Our Track Record of Strong Language Skills

**BENEFIT:** A stronger understanding and articulation of the language has the potential to develop into greater effectiveness in work, ministry, and social situations.

- **NATIVE ACCENT - 100% OF TEACHERS ARE NATIVE SPEAKERS**

- **TOTAL IMMERSION MODEL THROUGH 8TH GRADE**

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TESTING AT ADVANCED PROFICIENCY LEVELS**

- **CONSISTENTLY TESTING ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

# 6

## Future Opportunities

- Strengthen college applications
- Bring cultural understanding into a business context
- Expand opportunities for missions and ministry
- Expand opportunities within the fields of:
  - Business and trade
  - Medicine and health care
  - Banking
  - Law
  - Law enforcement and corrections
  - Social work
  - Teaching

**BENEFIT:** Whether in ministry, business, or social settings, increased global empathy leads to opportunities and helps ZCS students Burn Bright as Christians who “accept their responsibility toward the world in which they live.” - ZCS Mission



# 7

## Beginning with the End in Mind

Mandarin Immersion at ZCS begins in preschool or kindergarten with a Total Immersion model.

**BENEFIT:** This normalizes cultural differences for students from a young age and provides a more native accent to enhance students' language skills.

Upon graduation from Zeeland Christian, students can continue learning Mandarin at Holland Christian High School via a partnership with Western Michigan University.

**BENEFIT:** Continuing to engage with the language into high school will keep students' language skills strong and further strengthen their college applications.







# 8

## Trilingual Learning

All elementary Mandarin immersion students at ZCS spend 60 minutes a week studying Spanish.

**BENEFIT:** Further expands the mind, heart, and potential opportunities for a student.

# 9

## Chinese Influence in the Global Marketplace

China has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and will likely overtake the U.S. in GDP in the future.

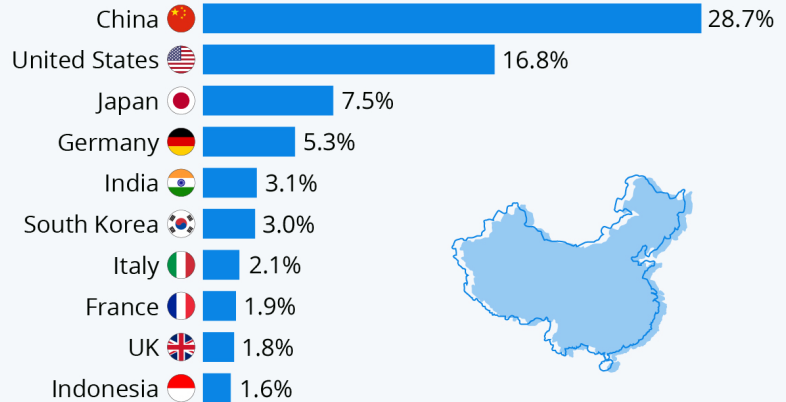
China maintains an increasing portion of global consumption.

China produces 28.7% of the world's goods (the United States is number two at 16.8%)

**BENEFIT:** Fluency in Mandarin and an understanding of Chinese culture should lead to increased success for ZCS students working in the global economy.

## China Is the World's Manufacturing Superpower

Top 10 countries by share of global manufacturing output in 2019\*

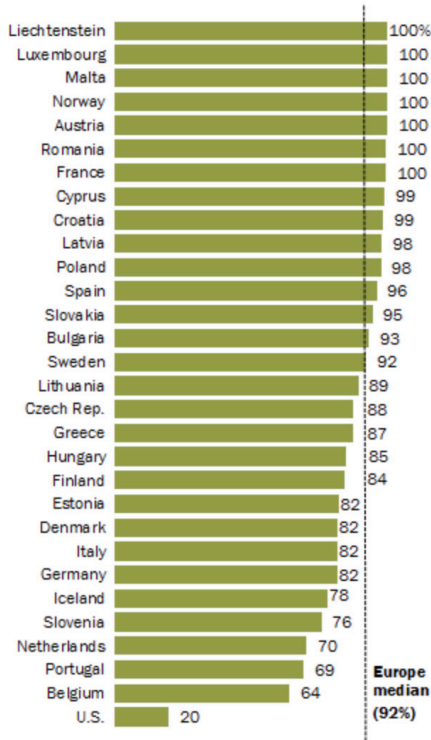


\* output measured on a value-added basis in current U.S. dollars  
Source: United Nations Statistics Division



## Europe drastically outpaces U.S. in foreign language learning

*% of primary and secondary students learning a foreign language in Europe (2016) and the U.S. (2017)*



Note: Data not available for the UK, Ireland or the Republic of Macedonia. U.S. includes 50 states and the District of Columbia. Source: Europe data from Eurostat, accessed June 20, 2018. U.S. data from "The National K-12 Foreign Language Enrollment Survey Report," American Councils for International Education, June 2017.

# 10

## Foreign Language Learning Globally

The most spoken languages in the world (native speakers)\* are:

1. Chinese - 1.3 billion (Mandarin Chinese 1.1 billion)
2. Spanish - 471 million
3. English - 370 million

92% of European students are learning a world language in school.

Throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20% of K-12 students are enrolled in world language classes.

**BENEFIT:** Compared to their American peers, your child will have an advantage when submitting college applications and pursuing career opportunities.

\*<https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/the-10-most-spoken-languages-in-the-world>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/08/06/most-european-students-are-learning-a-foreign-language-in-school-while-americans-lag/>

# Cost Analysis

Zeeland Christian School - \$8,942

Intercultural Montessori Language School - \$19,000

International School of Indiana - \$20,500

International Montessori School, North Carolina - \$14,500

<https://tessais.org/extraordinary-benefits-of-mandarin-language-learning-for-children/>

<https://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/what-research-tells-us-about-immersion>

Weise, Elizabeth. A Parent's Guide to Mandarin Immersion. Chenery Street Press, San Francisco, 2014.





**Zeeland Christian School**

[zcs.org](http://zcs.org)

334 W. Central Ave.

Zeeland, MI 49464

Phone: (616) 772-2609