STARTALK Nurture Program
2009 - 2014

Program Director          Fred Lu
TA Director               Sophia Wu
Site Director             Lilian Blecha

Consortium of Illinois Language Schools
INTEGRATING SITE DIRECTORS, INSTRUCTORS AND TAS IN A MULTI-SITE PROGRAM

Consortium Of Illinois Language Schools (CILS)
Fred Lu– Program Director
fredlu98@gmail.com
STARTALK Nurture Program

» Cooperate with school districts and recruit students in the target grades

» Develop thematic units, create, share and revise lesson plans coherent to STARTALK endorsed principles
Missions

» **Education** – Provide Chinese language learning opportunities for students who otherwise would not have chance to participate

» **Continuation** – STARTALK students could attend Heritage Schools for continuous education. Certified teachers have the opportunities to attend the teacher program to enhance their teaching skills

» **Elevation** – Traditional Chinese school teachers have the abilities of adapting to ACTFL standards

» **Certifications** – Encourage Chinese School teachers to get certification from the State

» **Bridging** – Connect local school districts with weekend heritage schools
Participating School Districts

» Naperville District 203
» Naperville District 204
» Plainfield District 202
» Joliet School District 204
» Carol Stream District 93
» Arlington Heights District 25
» Palatine School District 211
» Glenbard School District 87
Participating School Districts

» DeKalb High School District 428
» Hinsdale High School District 86
» Downers Grove School District 58
» Downers Grove High School District 99
» Oswego Community Unit School District 308
» Christian Heritage Academy, Northfield

Total – 14 School Districts
## Funding Resources

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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Other Information about the Program

» 2011 and 2012, 105 Students in Hindi Program
» 14 school districts participated
» 125 Chinese teachers and 10 Hindi teachers attended Teacher Training Programs
» Positive comments from the students, parents, school districts, and the STARTALK Central
Participating School Districts in Chicago Metropolitan Area
Implementing the STARTALK Principles

1. Developing the program curriculum based on the STARTALK Principles
   » Implementing a Standards-Based and Thematically Organized Curriculum
   » Facilitating a Learner-Centered Classroom
   » 90% Target Language and Providing Comprehensible Input
   » Integrating Culture, Content, and Language in a Classroom
   » Using Age-Appropriate Authentic Materials
   » Conducting Performance-Based Assessment
Implementing the STARTALK Principles

2. Teacher training before the program

» Intensive training by a master teacher

» Beginning with concepts, focusing on implementation

» Team work with experienced teachers, less experienced teachers and the site directors

» Units and lesson plans—creating, sharing, analyzing, revising, sharing
Implementing the STARTALK Principles

3. On-site supervision and support focusing on the implementation of the STARTALK Principles
   - Site directors being responsible for the implementation of the STARTALK Principles
   - TAs memorizing the STARTALK Principles
   - Making sure the unit and lesson plans are fully implemented and also adjusted when necessary
Teachers Sharing Lesson Plans
Challenges

» Connecting with School Districts and news media is a continuous task due to constant changing of personnel

» Districts are recovering from budget crisis and reluctant to offer additional foreign language at this time

» Chinese Teacher Certification process is getting more challenging

» Certified Chinese teachers are facing very tight and competitive job markets

» Maintaining students perfect attendance is a challenge
2010 Hindi Teacher Program
TO BE AN EFFICIENT SITE DIRECTOR
BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PROGRAM

Consortium Of Illinois Language Schools (CILS)
Lilian Blecha– 2014 STARTALK Site Director
lblechas@yahoo.com
CILS Site Directors Roles

Before Program

During Program

After Program
CILS Site Directors Roles

Before Program
Approach Districts and follow-up

» Demographic Research - Potential School Districts

» Approach Target School Districts
   > Plainfield District 202 and Joliet Township District 204

» Follow-up with Key-Persons
   > Districts & Schools Administrative staff
Site Strategic Plan

» Plan when classes will start

» Logistics - Schools designated location

» Target grades: 4$^{th}$ – 9$^{th}$

» Class size: 1 or 2 classes

» Budget site recruitment: How many Teachers/TAs will be recruited?
Publicize Program

» Design flyers & poster

» Prepare forms for website
  > Registration
  > Students Consent for Survey
  > Video/Photo Release
  > Medical/Emergency

» Contact Director of Community Relations for promotion
Supervise Enrollment Process

» Communicate STARTALK guidelines to parents
» Ensure registration site was well prepared
» Q/A to direct for all parents
CILS Site Directors Roles

During Program
Work with School Districts

» Tech. support - LinguaFolio / Chinese input
» Request facility access
» Reciprocal communication with administrative staff
Communicate with Parents & Students

» Correspond frequently with parents and students
» Direct/guide through registration policy
» Address questions from parents as they arise
Share Resources with Other Sites

» Teaching materials - Google drive

» Cultural materials & props

» Cultural instructor among multi-sites
Supervise Classroom Management

» Collect daily learning evidence
» Direct teachers/TAs to follow STARTALK endorsed principles
» Reinforce a safe & fun learning environment
» Provide students weekly reflections
» Collect post survey from students
Site Visit / Evaluation

» Prepare lessons plan packet
» Invite district administrative staff welcome site visitors
» Review through debriefing / feedbacks
CILS Site Directors Roles

After Program
Ending Ceremony

- Reflect what students learned: skits, culture activities
- TAs prepared video clips / PPT
- Provide students with "certificates of completion" and "certificates of participation"
- Parents reflections during ceremony
- One-on-one with parents for feedbacks
- Exhibit showcase in classrooms
Plan for Upcoming Year

» Call a team meeting for improvement
» Propose the preliminary strategic plan
Publicity Evidence

The HERALD-NEWS

FRIDAY August 1, 2014 • $1.00

COVER STORY

CHINA AND JOLIET MEET
Course creates deeper understanding of foreign culture and language

By YOGA S. NARAN

JOLIET - Chinese poetry and music reached a new height Thursday when a group of students from the Joliet West High School Chinese immersion program performed at the downtown Joliet Little Domes.

Students performed songs and skits in Mandarin, and one returning volunteer filled the air with his performance on the guzheng, a Chinese string instrument that imitates the sound of a wind instrument. Each piece was accompanied by an English translation.

“Two much tradito,” Fred Li said.

Li is the director of the STARTALK Chinese Immersion Summer Language Program, a course created to immerse American students in Chinese culture and language.

The course ended with a "visiting" of a local Chinese restaurant.

“Visiting" of a local Chinese restaurant.

The Herald-News.

ABOVE: George Xiao performs a song on the guzheng, a traditional Chinese string instrument, Thursday during an awards ceremony for the Chinese Immersion Class at Joliet West High School.
Safety Concern

» Open discussion
Invest Now for the Young Generation!
TEACHER’S ASSISTANCE (TA) PROGRAM

Consortium Of Illinois Language Schools (CILS)

Sophia Wu – 2014 STARTALK TA Program Director
Swuhu2010@gmail.com
CILS TA Program

- Recruiting
- Training
- Site Visits
- Weekly Reflections
- Evaluation
CILS TA Program

Recruiting
Recruiting

» Spread the recruiting news to general public.

» Email the recruiting details to potential candidates and previous TAs before Spring Break.

» Email the recruiting details to all Chinese School teachers through “Midwest Chinese Language Schools Association (MCLSA)”.

» Email the recruiting details to public high schools’ Chinese teachers.
TA Requirements

1. A current high school or college student.

2. Demonstrate efficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Chinese.

3. Be a team player with leadership skills: Prefer a summer camp or club leader with good interpersonal skills.

4. Take the initiative, willing to help others, be a role model to the program students.

5. Submit an autobiography with application to TA program director due two weeks before the training day.
6. A current teacher’s recommendation letter.

7. Ensure and commit to the schedule.

8. Pass the interview by the site director and teacher.

9. Participating the two mandatory TA’s trainings:
   - **1st Training Camp** – One week before the program start
   - **Reinforcement Camp** – During the program
Selection Process

1. TA Program Director collects all documents from applicants:
   a. Application
   b. Autobiography
   c. Teacher’s Recommendation Letter

2. TA Program Director performs the initial screen and selection based on candidates’ maturity and readiness for a TA.

3. Forward the candidates' documentations to the site directors for review, process and initial approval.

4. Teachers perform the final interview and confirm the appointment during the training camp.
Selection Process

» The candidate who has strong sense of Chinese characters, demonstrates cultural awareness, and will to succeed for the program.
CILS TA Program

Training
1st Training Camp

**Training Topics:**

- TA experience sharing
- How to appropriately interact with students
- How to prepare a successful ending ceremony
- Introduction to the STARTALK Student Program
- Meeting with Teachers & Site Directors
- Tools and software to be used for the TA tasks
- TA’s responsibilities
Reinforcement Camp

A. Training Topics:
   How to create & upload the evidences for 2014 LinguaFolio?

B. Sharing Topics:
   1. How to meet the 90% target language standard?
   2. Do you have any safety concern on your school site?
   3. What is your major work during past one or two weeks?
   4. How do you help when a student misbehaves during class or recess time?
   5. How well do you think the students understand the material?
   6. Please share your experience to other TAs (good or bad)?
TA Training

TA Training – One week before the “Student Program” starts

Plainfield – Site Director and Teachers meet TAs
CILS TA Program

TA Director
Site Visits
## TA Director Site Visits

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<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TA / Class</th>
<th>Site Director</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plainfield: Plainfield Community School District 202</strong></td>
<td>6/05~7/02 Monday – Thursday (4 weeks)</td>
<td>3 TA / 2 Classes</td>
<td>蘇莉玲 老師 Mrs. Lilian Blecha <a href="mailto:lblechas@yahoo.com">lblechas@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainfield North High School 12005 South 248th Avenue Plainfield, IL 60585</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oswego: Oswego Community Unit School District 308</strong></td>
<td>6/09~6/27 Monday – Friday (3 weeks)</td>
<td>1 TA / 1 Class</td>
<td>劉玲 老師 Ms. Lin Liu <a href="mailto:jl2308@yahoo.com">jl2308@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswego High School 4250 Illinois 71, Oswego, IL 60543</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>CHA: Christian Heritage Academy</strong></td>
<td>6/09~6/27 Monday – Friday (3 weeks)</td>
<td>2 TA / 2 Classes</td>
<td>張娟澕 老師 Ms. Grace Chang <a href="mailto:grace.chang.tw7@gmail.com">grace.chang.tw7@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Heritage Academy 315 Waukegan Rd., Northfield, IL 60093</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Downers Grove: Downers Grove Grade School District 58</strong></td>
<td>6/16~7/11 Monday – Friday (4 Weeks)</td>
<td>1 TA / 1 Class</td>
<td>張耀淑 老師 Mrs. Susan Wu <a href="mailto:Susanw428@yahoo.com">Susanw428@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Indian Trail School 6235 Stonewall, Downers Grove, IL 60516</td>
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<td><strong>DeKalb: DeKalb School District 428</strong></td>
<td>6/30~7/18 Monday – Friday (3 Weeks)</td>
<td>3 TA / 2 Classes</td>
<td>林雅玲 老師 Mrs. Linda Ma <a href="mailto:linyaling.ma@gmail.com">linyaling.ma@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb High School 501 W. Dresser, DeKalb, IL 60115</td>
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<td><strong>Naperville: Naperville Community Unit School District 203</strong></td>
<td>6/30~7/18 Monday – Friday (3 Weeks)</td>
<td>3 TA / 2 Classes</td>
<td>胡玲玲 校長 Ms. Ling-Ling Hu <a href="mailto:npa708@yahoo.com">npa708@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Washington Junior High School 201 N. Washington St. Naperville, IL 60540</td>
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<td><strong>Joliet: Joliet Township High School District 204</strong></td>
<td>7/08~7/31 Monday – Thursday (4 Weeks)</td>
<td>2 TA / 1 Class</td>
<td>蘇莉玲 老師 Mrs. Lilian Blecha <a href="mailto:lblechas@yahoo.com">lblechas@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joliet West High School 401 North Larkin Avenue, Joliet, Illinois, 60435</td>
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TA Director Site Visits

Purpose of Site Visits:

» To ensure no environmental safety concern around the site.
» To visit classes with observation.
» Help TA resolve concerns and issues.
» Meeting with site director, teachers, and TAs.
» Provide comments to TAs.
» Take classroom and activity pictures.
TA Director Site Visits

Plainfield – Classroom decoration

Naperville – Site Director worked with TAs. Setup computer for Chinese typing.
CILS TA Program

Weekly Reflections
TA’s Weekly Reflections

Purpose of Weekly Reflections:

» Keep a safe and healthy environment for the program
» Oversee the TAs and their tasks
» Keep the communication channel open between TAs & TA Director
» Find and resolve any issues and problems
» TA’s self evaluation and improvement
» Help TAs manage a good relationship with students
TA’s Weekly Reflections

Examples-1:

» What safety concerns do you observe, if any?

» What did you spend most of your time doing? Did you discuss with your teacher the classroom activities at end of the day?

» How is this class doing as compared to your foreign language classes at school? How do the students perceive you?

» Were there any surprises? Anything you didn't expect?

» How did you manage a good connection with students?

» What do you think you did well in the classroom as a TA?
Examples-2:
» Did you meet the 90% target language standard? If not, how will you reach the goal?
» What is the progress of the classes LinguaFolio? Did students have enough time to finish their Can-Do Statement? If not, do you have any suggestion?
» What did you think you did better than last week? Where could you improve for the coming week?
» What suggestions do you have for either your teacher or the STARTALK program? Any general thoughts?
» Do you plan to be TA again next year for STARTALK?
CILS TA Program

Evaluation

- Outstanding
- Excellent
- Very Good
- Average
- Below Average
Evaluation

» Evaluation by site directors and classroom teachers.

» Evaluation based on TA’s job responsibilities.

» Understand how TAs’ work was done from site directors and teachers point of view.

» Provide the data for future TA program improvement.

» For future hiring consideration.
Evaluation

» Used the target language 90% of the time to communicate with others

![Bar chart for used language](chart1.png)

» Was always alert to students’ safety during class and recess time

![Bar chart for safety alertness](chart2.png)
Evaluation

» Was fully committed to the STARTALK TA program and to class time

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» Was conscientious and responsible

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Evaluation

» Managed time effectively

![Managed time effectively chart]

- 1: 0 (0%)
- 2: 0 (0%)
- 3: 1 (3%)
- 4: 2 (6%)
- 5: 30 (91%)

» Helped the teacher maintain order in the classroom

![Helped the teacher to maintain order in the classroom chart]

- 1: 0 (0%)
- 2: 0 (0%)
- 3: 0 (0%)
- 4: 3 (9%)
- 5: 30 (91%)
Evaluation

» Completed the “STARTALK TA Weekly Reflection Form” on time

» Was a positive role model
Discussion Topic

1. What is the main role of TA in your program?
2. How do you recruit TAs?
3. How do you training TAs?
4. Is there any challenge without TAs?
See You in 2015

Consortium Of Illinois Language Schools (CILS)
再見！