



## Mandarin Messenger ~ September

Thank you for your involvement in the Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP) at Fletcher School! Our program has the full support of the Orange Unified School District, our dedicated Mandarin teachers, and the entire Fletcher Staff. I am proud to be a part of it, and in awe of the enrichment opportunities it offers to all of our students.

Fletcher's MIP follows a 50/50 dual immersion model, in which 50% of the instructional minutes are devoted to teaching Mandarin. However, this allows our teachers only half the time to cover the entire curriculum in English. As a public school, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for ELA and Math instruction, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as well as the History-Social Science (HSS) Standards drive our program. Providing a solid foundation in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies is not only our responsibility, but also a legal requirement. As educators, we are familiar with the research that shows students must first have a solid foundation in their primary language in order to become fluent in a second or third, therefore student achievement in English is our first priority, including giving the additional support needed for our English Language Learners. However, we remain committed to devoting 50% of the day to excellent Mandarin instruction for those students enrolled in our program. As difficult as this sometimes is, we work very hard to make it happen.

We also understand that some students are better able to learn in the morning when they are fresh, which is why our Special Education support staff are available to push into classrooms to support all students needing additional help in ELA and Math. Because of this need, we have scheduled blocks for ELA in the morning - primary grades before recess and upper grades after. Math is also taught in the morning so we can continue this much-needed support. This means that the bulk of Mandarin instruction will be in the afternoons. However, we have no reason to believe this will be a detriment to our Mandarin students, and we have not seen negative effects thus far.

I hope this information provides a better understanding to parents of our commitment to all students at Fletcher, as well as our efforts to maintain the integrity of the MIP. Please let me know if you have any questions. Once again, we thank you for supporting Fletcher School.