

Furthering Chinese Language Learning: Curriculum Design & Instruction for Chinese Immersion Students Taking College Courses

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Abstract

To meet the increasing demand of high school students taking college courses, in partnership with Forest Hills Schools, Western Michigan University is now offering Chinese courses to high school Chinese immersion students. To better meet young learners' learning needs, the college faculty has adjusted the curriculum design & instruction and make it appropriate to students' cognitive and maturity level. An important part of it is to implement pedagogical activities in collaboration with local K-12 Chinese immersion teachers as well as English language teachers in China. The presenter will introduce some pedagogically collaborated activities, such as comic book and pen pal writing, across different schools. These activities have not only helped to foster students' language learning skills, but also helped to motivate and engage immersion students in language learning. The presenter will also share the challenges and suggestions related to this pedagogical collaboration.

Key Words: Chinese language, Dual Enrollment Program, pedagogical collaboration

Bio

Dr. Li Xiang is a faculty specialist of Chinese in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Western Michigan University. She is currently teaching Chinese immersion students in a dual enrollment program. Before coming to WMU, she taught Chinese at Lewis & Clark College, Portland State University, and Lincoln High School in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Xiang's publications include textbooks, book chapters, journal articles, dictionaries, etc. Her research interests include Chinese language pedagogy, curriculum design, and Chinese language teachers' professional development.